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G20 Research Group
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with the
International Organisations Research Institute
at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, Moscow
present the

2014 Brisbane G20 Summit Interim Compliance Report

17 November 2014 to 1 March 2015

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“The University of Toronto ... produced a detailed analysis to the extent of which each G20 country has met its commitments since the last summit ... I think this is important; we come to these summits, we make these commitments, we say we are going to do these things and it is important that there is an organisation that checks up on who has done what.”

— *David Cameron, Prime Minister, United Kingdom, at the 2012 Los Cabos Summit*

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Preface

Since the G20 leaders met at their first summit in 2008 in Washington, the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the International Organisations Research Institute of National Research University Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) in Moscow have produced reports on their progress in implementing the priority commitments made at each summit. These reports monitor each G20 member's efforts to implement a carefully chosen selection of the many commitments produced at each summit. The 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 G20 more transparent, accessible and effective, and to provide scientific data to enable the meaningful analysis of the causes of compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the G20 Information Centre at www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis and the IORI HSE at www.hse.ru/en/org/hse/iori/G20_analytics.

The G20 Research Group has been working with the team at IORI HSE since IORI HSE initiated this G20 compliance research in 2009, after the Washington Summit in November 2008. The initial report, covering only one commitment made at that summit, tested the compliance methodology developed by the G8 Research Group and adapted it to the G20.

To make its assessments, the G20 Research Group relies on publicly available information, documentation and media reports. To ensure accuracy, comprehensiveness and integrity, we encourage comments from stakeholders. Indeed, scores can be recalibrated if new material becomes available. All feedback remains anonymous. Responsibility for this report's contents lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group and its partners at IORI HSE.

This report assesses performance by G20 members with 17 priority commitments among the total of 205 commitments made at the 2014 Brisbane Summit, held on 15-16 November 2014. This interim report covers compliant behaviour during the period from 16 November 2014 to 1 March 2015. The final report, to be released on the eve of the 2015 Antalya Summit, will cover the entire time between the Brisbane Summit and the Antalya Summit.

I am most grateful to Marina Larionova and her team in Moscow at the National Research University Higher School of Economics, as well as to Antonia Tsapralis and our own team in Toronto.

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Introduction and Summary

The G20 2014 Brisbane Interim Compliance Report, prepared by the G20 Research Group at the University of Toronto and the International Organisations Research Institute of the National Research University Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE), analyzes compliance by G20 members with a selection of 17 priority commitments out of a total of 205 commitments made at the Brisbane Summit on 15-16 November 2014. The report covers compliance-relevant actions taken by the G20 members between 16 November 2014 to 1 March 2015. This timeframe allows for an assessment of compliance at approximately the midpoint between the 2014 Brisbane Summit and the Antalya Summit, which will be hosted by Turkey on 15-16 November 2015. A final report assessing compliance for the full period between the two summits will be published on the eve of the Antalya Summit.

Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996 (IORI HSE joined this multiyear project in 2005, and Bond University participated in 2014). The use of this methodology builds cross-institutional and cross-member consistency and also allows compatibility with compliance assessments of other institutions.

The methodology uses a scale from -1 to +1, where +1 indicates full compliance with the stated commitment, -1 indicates a failure to comply or action taken that is directly opposite to the stated instruments or goal of the commitment, and 0 indicates partial compliance or work in progress, such as initiatives that have been launched but are not yet near completion and whose full results can therefore not be assessed. Each member assessed receives a score of -1, 0 or +1 for each commitment. For convenience, the scores in the tables have been converted to percentages, where -1 equals 0% and +1 equals 100%.¹

A failing compliance score does not necessarily imply an unwillingness to comply on the part of G20 members. In some cases policy actions can take multiple compliance cycles to implement and measure. As the G20 Research Group and IORI HSE continue to monitor developments in this issue area, progress made by members can be recorded in future compliance reports.

Commitment Breakdown

The G20 made a total of 205 commitments at the Brisbane Summit.² These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and HSE, are drawn from the official G20 Leaders' Communiqué, the Brisbane Action Plan, the Statement on Ebola, the Note on the Global Infrastructure Initiative and Hub, and the Principles on Energy Collaboration.

Selection of Commitments

For each compliance cycle (that is, the period between summits), the research team selects commitments that reflect the breadth of the G20 agenda and also reflect the priorities of the summit's host, while balancing the selection to allow for comparison with past and future summits,

¹ The formula to convert a score into a percentage is $P=50 \times (S+1)$, where P is the percentage and S is the score.

² A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent — a politically binding promise by summit members that they will undertake future action, often to move toward, meet or adjust to an identified target. More details are contained in the Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding (available at <http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/evaluations/index.html#manual>).

following the methodology developed by the G8 Research Group.³ The selection also replicates the breakdown of issue areas and the proportion of commitments in each one. Primary criteria for priority commitment selection are the comprehensiveness and relevance to the summit, the G20 and the world, as well as individual and collective pledges. Selected commitments must also meet secondary criteria of performance measurability and ability to comply to some degree within a year, as well as tertiary criteria of significance as identified by scientific teams and relevant stakeholders in the host country.

For the 2014 G20 Brisbane Interim Compliance Report, 17 priority commitments were selected from the 205 commitments made at the Brisbane Summit (see Table 1).

Interim Compliance Scores

The assessment is based on relevant, publicly available information relating to action taken from 16 November 2014 to 1 March 2015. The interim compliance scores by commitment are contained in Table 2. Country rankings are listed in Table 3 and commitment rankings are listed in Table 4. Table 5 allows a comparison of the 2014 interim compliance scores with the final scores of previous G20 summits.

For the period from 16 November 2014 to 1 March 2015, G20 members achieved an average interim compliance score of +0.25, which translates to 63%. This interim compliance score surpasses the final compliance score for the London and Pittsburgh summits.

Interim Compliance by Member

For compliance with the Brisbane Summit's priority commitments, the United States is in first place with a score of +0.71 (85%), followed by the United Kingdom at +0.65 (82%) and Canada at +0.59 (79%). The lowest scoring member is South Africa with a score of -0.29 (35%). The difference between the highest and lowest G20 member compliance scores is +1.00. For more information about compliance by G20 members, see Table 2.

Interim Compliance by Commitment

This particular compliance cycle produced a high level of compliance for a few different issue areas: clean energy technology and infrastructure at +0.85 (93%) in first place, followed by the health commitment on antimicrobial resistance in second place at +0.80 (90%). The commitment on youth employment came third place at +0.75 (88%). Four commitments scored at or below 0 (50%): climate change at 0 (50%), a macroeconomic commitment on fiscal strategies at -0.05 (48%), the development commitment on remittances at -0.25 (38%) and, in last place, the commitment on fossil fuel subsidies at -0.35 (33%). For more information on scoring by commitment, see Table 3.

³ Guidelines for choosing priority commitments, as well as other applicable considerations, are available in the Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding.

Table 1: 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring

1	Macroeconomic: Fiscal Strategies	“We will continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
2	Macroeconomic: Investment	“We are working to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors ... particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises]” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
3	Macroeconomic: Exchange Rates	“We reiterate our commitment to move more rapidly toward more market-determined exchange rate systems and exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying fundamentals, and avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments.” (G20 Brisbane Action Plan)
4	Trade	“We commit to implement all elements of the Bali package.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
5	Labour and Employment: Youth Unemployment	“We are strongly committed to reducing youth unemployment, which is unacceptably high, by acting to ensure young people are in education, training or employment.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
6	Labour and Employment: Social Protection	“We remain focussed on addressing ... long-term unemployment, by ... having appropriate social protection systems.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
7	Climate Change	“We reaffirm our support for mobilising finance for adaptation ... such as the Green Climate Fund.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
8	Energy: Fossil Fuel Subsidies	“We reaffirm our commitment to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, recognising the need to support the poor.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
9	Energy: Clean Energy Technology	“G20 countries agree to work together to ... Encourage and facilitate the design, development, demonstration ... of innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies.” (G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration)
10	Health: Ebola	“We will work to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds ... balancing between emergency and long-term needs.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Statement on Ebola)
11	Health: Antimicrobial Resistance	“We also commit to fight anti-microbial resistance.” (G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Eloba)
12	Gender	“We agree to the goal of reducing the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women in our countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances. This will bring more than 100 million women into the labour force [and] significantly increase global growth.” (G20 Brisbane Action Plan)
13	Financial Regulation	“We commit to improve the transparency of ... beneficial ownership by implementing the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.” (G20 Brisbane Summit Leaders’ Communiqué)

14	Development: Remittances	“We commit to take strong practical measures to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances to five per cent and to enhance financial inclusion as a priority.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
15	Development: Tax Administration	“We will work with [developing countries] to build their tax administration.” (G20 Brisbane Summit Leaders’ Communiqué)
16	Development: Aid for Trade	“We will continue to provide aid-for-trade to developing countries in need of assistance.” (G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué)
17	Infrastructure	“We ... will work on ways to mobilise long-term financing for infrastructure.” (G20 Brisbane Action Plan)

Table 2: 2014 G20 Brisbane Interim Compliance Scores

	Argentina	Australia	Brazil	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	Indonesia	Italy	Japan	Korea	Mexico	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	Turkey	United Kingdom	United States	European Union	Average	
1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-0.05	48%
2	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	-1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.45	73%
3	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	+1	+1	0	+0.05	53%
4	-1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	-1	+1	-1	+1	+1	-1	+0.05	53%
5	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.75	88%
6	0	-1	-1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	-1	0	+1	-1	+0.15	58%
7	0	+1	-1	+1	-1	+1	0	-1	0	-1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	0.00	50%
8	-1	-1	0	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	-1	-1	0	0	+1	-1	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	-0.35	33%
9	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%
10	-1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	0	-1	+1	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+0.35	68%
11	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.80	90%
12	-1	0	0	0	-1	+1	+1	-1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	0	0	N/A	+0.11	55%
13	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	-1	0	+1	+1	0	0	0	+1	0	0	+0.30	65%
14	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	-0.25	38%
15	+1	0	+1	0	0	-1	+1	+1	0	-1	0	0	+1	0	-1	-1	0	+1	0	+1	+0.15	58%
16	0	+1	0	+1	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	+1	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	+1	+1	0	+0.10	55%
17	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%
Average	-0.12	+0.47	0.00	+0.59	+0.41	+0.35	+0.47	+0.29	-0.18	-0.12	+0.35	+0.47	+0.29	+0.53	-0.18	-0.29	-0.06	+0.65	+0.71	+0.44	+0.25	63%
	44%	74%	50%	79%	71%	68%	74%	65%	41%	44%	68%	74%	65%	76%	41%	35%	47%	82%	85%	72%	63%	

N/A = Not applicable.

Table 3: 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Interim Compliance by Country

Rank	Member	Average	
1	United States	+0.71	85%
2	United Kingdom	+0.65	82%
3	Canada	+0.59	79%
4	Russia	+0.53	76%
5	Australia	+0.47	74%
	Germany	+0.47	74%
	Korea	+0.47	74%
8	European Union	+0.44	72%
9	China	+0.41	71%
10	France	+0.35	68%
	Japan	+0.35	68%
12	India	+0.29	65%
	Mexico	+0.29	65%
14	Brazil	0.00	50%
15	Turkey	-0.06	47%
16	Argentina	-0.12	44%
	Italy	-0.12	44%
18	Indonesia	-0.18	41%
	Saudi Arabia	-0.18	41%
20	South Africa	-0.29	35%

Table 4: 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Interim Compliance by Commitment

Rank	Commitment	Average	
1	Energy: Clean Energy Technology	+0.85	93%
	Infrastructure	+0.85	93%
3	Health: Antimicrobial Resistance	+0.80	90%
4	Labour and Employment: Youth	+0.75	88%
5	Macroeconomics: Investment	+0.45	73%
6	Health: Ebola	+0.35	68%
7	Financial Regulation	+0.30	65%
8	Labour and Employment: Social Protection	+0.15	58%
	Development: Tax Administration	+0.15	58%
10	Gender	+0.11	55%
11	Development: Aid for Trade	+0.10	55%
12	Macroeconomic: Exchange Rates	+0.05	53%
	Trade	+0.05	53%
14	Climate Change	0.00	50%
15	Macroeconomics: Fiscal Strategies	-0.05	48%
16	Development: Remittances	-0.25	38%
17	Energy: Fossil Fuels	-0.35	33%

Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008-2014

Member	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Interim		Final		Interim	
	Washington		London		Pittsburgh		Toronto		Seoul		Cannes		Los Cabos		St. Petersburg		St. Petersburg		Brisbane	
Argentina	0	50%	-0.60	20%	-0.13	44%	0	50%	-0.08	46%	0	50%	+0.31	66%	+0.06	53%	+0.06	53%	-0.12	44%
Australia	n/a	–	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.85	93%	+0.67	84%	+0.94	97%	+0.38	69%	+0.63	81%	+0.47	74%
Brazil	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	-0.63	19%	+0.29	65%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.56	78%	+0.31	66%	+0.31	66%	0	50%
Canada	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.78	89%	+0.69	85%	+0.73	87%	+0.75	88%	+0.44	72%	+0.44	72%	+0.59	79%
China	0	50%	-0.40	30%	+0.13	57%	+0.38	69%	+0.42	71%	+0.53	77%	+0.38	69%	0	50%	+0.19	59%	+0.41	71%
France	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.60	80%	+0.69	85%	+0.69	84%	+0.69	84%	+0.35	68%
Germany	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.54	77%	+0.67	84%	+0.56	78%	+0.56	78%	+0.75	88%	+0.47	74%
India	0	50%	-0.40	30%	-0.38	31%	-0.29	36%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.19	59%	+0.63	81%	+0.29	65%
Indonesia	n/a	–	-0.40	30%	-0.63	19%	-0.13	44%	+0.36	68%	+0.14	57%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%	+0.50	75%	-0.18	41%
Italy	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.13	57%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.80	90%	+0.19	60%	+0.31	66%	+0.44	72%	-0.12	44%
Japan	+1.00	100%	+0.20	60%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.62	81%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%	+0.31	66%	+0.31	66%	+0.35	68%
Korea	n/a	–	0	50%	+0.75	88%	+0.56	78%	+0.46	73%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.19	59%	+0.38	69%	+0.47	74%
Mexico	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.25	63%	-0.14	43%	+0.58	79%	+0.67	84%	+0.69	85%	+0.38	69%	+0.38	69%	+0.29	65%
Russia	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+0.38	69%	+0.13	57%	+0.59	80%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.50	75%	+0.44	72%	+0.53	76%
Saudi Arabia	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.13	44%	-0.13	44%	+0.08	54%	+0.21	61%	+0.50	75%	-0.06	47%	+0.06	53%	-0.18	41%
South Africa	+1.00	100%	+0.40	70%	+0.63	82%	-0.14	43%	+0.33	67%	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%	+0.25	63%	+0.25	63%	-0.29	35%
Turkey	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.25	38%	-0.14	43%	+0.17	59%	+0.20	60%	+0.25	63%	+0.13	56%	+0.25	63%	-0.06	47%
United Kingdom	+1.00	100%	+1.00	100%	+0.50	75%	+0.78	89%	+0.77	89%	+0.87	94%	+0.81	91%	+0.88	94%	+0.75	88%	+0.65	82%
United States	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+1.00	100%	+0.33	67%	+0.38	69%	+0.53	77%	+0.81	91%	+0.63	81%	+0.69	84%	+0.71	85%
European Union	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.38	69%	+0.57	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.85	93%	+0.75	88%	+0.69	84%	+0.63	81%	+0.44	72%
Average	+0.67	83%	+0.23	62%	+0.24	62%	+0.28	64%	+0.50	75%	+0.54	77%	+0.57	79%	+0.37	68%	+0.44	72%	+0.25	63%
	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Interim		Final		Interim	

n/a = not available

Conclusions

G20 compliance performance for the chosen priority commitments, measured as a summit average, improved incrementally from the April 2009 London Summit and September 2009 Pittsburgh Summit (both at 62%) to the June 2010 Toronto Summit (64%) and then rose with the November 2010 Seoul Summit (75%) and the November 2011 Cannes Summit (78%). With the St. Petersburg Summit, compliance dropped to 72%. The interim average of 64% for the Brisbane Summit is lower than the historical average of 70% for the seven previous summits (excluding Washington), but the scores may improve by the time of the final report, which will be published on the eve of the Antalya Summit. If the G20 can improve its performance on delivering on its promises, it may validate its claim for legitimacy as a global governance institution.

Many of the commitments assessed in this report have timelines that extend beyond the 2014 Brisbane Summit or reflect medium- and long-term priorities. A unique feature of this report is the incorporation of deadlines for commitments monitored over multiple compliance cycles. The convergence of medium- and long-term commitments and those with deadlines in the near future reflects the nature of G20 decisions as a crisis management forum and a global governance steering institution. It also illustrates the multifaceted nature of compliance assessment. As the relationship among short, medium, and long-term commitments becomes clearer, the compliance landscape for many of these priority commitments may change over the course of future compliance periods.

Future Research and Reports

The information contained in this report provides G20 members and other stakeholders with an indication of their compliance in the period immediately following the Brisbane Summit. This draft has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on compliance before the finished final report will be published in near future. Feedback should be sent to g20@utoronto.ca.

Considerations and Limitations

Several elements affect the findings contained in this report. While the purpose of the report is to monitor compliance with G20 commitments, it is necessary to ensure that the monitoring mechanism is realistic and considers the context within which the commitments are made. With new commitments, more attention must be paid to the initial implementation constraints faced by members. One way to accommodate these constraints is to regard the intent to implement policy measures as an illustration of compliance, or being “on track” towards compliance. This initial leeway should only be granted for new commitments; intent is not a suitable indicator of compliance for medium-term or longstanding commitments. Over time as commitments become integrated in the G20 compliance mechanism, compliance guidelines should become more stringent (as members become more accustomed to the nature of the issue and the requirements for compliance).

See also Appendix: General Considerations.

Appendix: General Considerations

In evaluating the results of this report, the following considerations should be kept in mind.

1. Assessments contained in this report apply to commitment-related actions taken by G20 members only since the commitments were declared publicly at the last summit.
2. Compliance has been assessed against a selected set of priority commitments, rather than all commitments contained in the summit documents. The selection is intended to produce a representative subset of the total body of commitments. An ideal set of priority commitments represents proportionally the amount of attention paid to each policy area in summit documents, reflects the relative ambition of summit commitments, and holds as many G20 members to account for compliance as possible.
3. In addition to producing commitments, summits provide value by establishing new principles and norms, creating and highlighting issues and issue areas and altering the traditional discourse used to discuss priorities. Some of the most important decisions reached at summits may be done in private and not encoded in the public record of the summit documents.
4. Some commitments cover several years and thus compliance takes longer than the summit-to-summit timeframe applied in this report. For this reason, full compliance (denoted by a +1 score) might not require that G20 members carry out a given commitment completely, but might instead demand clear, visible progress commensurate with the overall timetable as well as public statements of support of commitment objectives.
5. In some cases, a G20 member might choose not to comply with a particular summit commitment for good reason, for example if global conditions have changed dramatically since the commitment was made or if new knowledge has become available about how a particular problem can best be solved.
6. As each G20 member has its own constitutional, legal and institutional processes for undertaking action at the national level (and in the case of the European Union at the supranational level), each member is free to act according to its own legislative schedule. Of particular importance here is the annual schedule for creating budgets, seeking legislative approval and appropriating funds.
7. Commitments in G20 summit documents might also be included, in whole or in part, in documents released by other international forums, as the decisions of other international organizations or even national statements such as the State of the Union Address in the United States, the Queen's Speech in the United Kingdom and the Speech from the Throne in Canada. Merely repeating a G20 commitment in another forum does not count fully as compliant behaviour.
8. This report assesses G20 members' action in accordance with the text of actual, specific commitments made in G20 summit documents. Because commitments demand that policymakers and regulators act specifically to meet the identified objectives, this report holds policymakers accountable for pushing and passing recommended policies. Furthermore, compliance is assessed against the precise, particular commitment, rather than what might be regarded as a necessary or appropriate action to solve the problem being addressed.
9. As individual members can take different actions to comply with the same commitment, no standardized cross-national evaluative criterion can be universally applied. The interpretive guidelines attempt to provide an equitable method for assessing compliance.
10. Because the evaluative scale used in this compliance report runs from -1 to +1, any score in the positive range represents at least some degree of compliance.

1. Macroeconomics: Fiscal Strategies

“We will continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada	-1		
China		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa	-1		
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		-0.05	

Background

On 15-16 November 2014, G20 leaders at the Brisbane Summit acknowledged that recovery from the global financial crisis remains uneven, hampered by “weak cyclical recovery...weakened productive capacity in key economies, and a legacy of vulnerabilities from the financial crisis.”⁴ G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for a concerted effort towards strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and agreed that implementing flexible fiscal strategies, which take into consideration national economic circumstances, are key to recovery and job creation.

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders agreed to develop “Comprehensive Growth Strategies”⁵ to collectively address these challenges. G20 leaders presented peer-reviewed strategies as part of the 2014 Brisbane Action Plan, acknowledging that these strategies represented a key mechanism through which global economic recovery could be achieved. In February 2014, the

⁴ Brisbane Action Plan, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 January 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_action_plan.pdf

⁵ G20 Comprehensive Growth Strategies: Macroeconomic and Structural Reforms, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 January 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/official_resources/current_presidency/growth_strategies

finance ministers and central bank governors indicated that adherence to this commitment by G20 countries, rather than reliance on existing macroeconomic policies, would raise the collective gross domestic product (GDP) by more than 2% over the next five years.⁶ Subsequent analysis by the International Monetary Fund and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development revealed that this increase in collective GDP would be closer to 2.1%, attributing a quarter of the increase to positive spillovers to the global economy resulting from simultaneous implementation of policies.⁷

In May 2014, a policy note created ahead of the Brisbane Summit stated that “strengthening national economies will result in a marked impact on global growth and prosperity, but given high levels of debt in certain developed economies, fiscal policy can only be used sparingly.”⁸ Therefore, developing fiscal policies that are flexible, in that they consider national circumstances and prioritize fiscal sustainability, is a critical element to the success of the strategies agreed to last year.

Commitment Features

This commitment is based on achieving fiscal sustainability through the implementation of sound economic policy measures, tailored to the specific objectives and circumstances of each country. Specifically, this commitment recognizes that each country will have different priorities, dictated by their individual economic circumstances. During the 2014 Brisbane Summit, each G20 country submitted individual Comprehensive Growth Strategies, which describe each country’s fiscal policy objectives. The objectives outlined in the growth strategies have taken into account each country’s near-term economic conditions, which is evident in the variance — in strength and nature — of policy commitments across countries.⁹ Moreover, each country’s comprehensive growth strategy outlines measures within their fiscal objectives that address putting debt-to-GDP ratios on a sustainable path.

Therefore, for the purpose of this report, the fiscal policy objectives within the individual country Comprehensive Growth Strategies will provide the basis for assessing country compliance. Each individual country report below will begin by identifying the fiscal policy objectives outlined in each comprehensive growth strategy. The report will then assess compliance based on any actions taken by each member country to fulfill the stated fiscal policy objectives. Full compliance will be awarded to G20 members that have taken actions towards implementing all their stated fiscal policy objectives within their individual growth strategies.

⁶ Meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, G20 (Sydney) 23 February 2014. Date of access: 29 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-0223-finance.html>

⁷ Quantifying the Impact of G-20 Members’ Growth Strategies, International Monetary Fund (Washington) 2014. Date of access: 27 January 2015. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/2014/growthstrat.pdf>

⁸ Policy note: Strategies for economic growth, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) May 2014. Date of access: 30 January 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Policy%20Note%20Strategies%20for%20Economic%20Growth.pdf>

⁹ Policy note: Strategies for economic growth, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) May 2014. Date of access: 30 January 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/Policy%20Note%20Strategies%20for%20Economic%20Growth.pdf>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member has made NO progress towards implementing fiscal policy measures stated within its comprehensive growth strategy.
0	Member has made SOME progress towards implementing fiscal policy measures stated within its comprehensive growth strategy.
+1	Member has implemented ALL fiscal policy measures stated within its comprehensive growth strategy.

Lead Analyst: Melanie Wallace

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Argentina has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Continue to implement countercyclical policy and maintain a low and manageable debt-to-GDP ratio
- Increase tax revenue through the creation of a more progressive tax structure (increasing the share of income tax) and export duties on sectors with high profitability
- Expand public spending in areas with high multiplier effects, such as social security and investment in infrastructure, especially energy-efficiency projects
- Improve allocation of public spending in productive and social investment, including a gradual reduction of subsidies on energy consumption and public transport.¹⁰

On 24 December 2014, the government of Argentina announced that it would extend tax amnesty for the sixth time. The program will allow those with undeclared accounts in countries such as Switzerland to legalize their undeclared cash. It is estimated that 4,000 citizens are eligible to participate. According to the decree, “The fiscal amnesty allows [the use of] idle cash resources for productive and social investments that would help [economic growth and industrialization].”¹¹ The government hopes that its threat of cracking down on individuals with undeclared accounts will increase participation significantly.

On 2 January 2015, the government of Argentina announced that it will “raise the retail price at which luxury tax is applicable on sales of cars, motorbikes, boats and planes.”¹² This constitutes an overall tax floor increase of 15%. The government hopes that the initiative will boost sales for the car industry and increase tax revenues.

¹⁰ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Argentina, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 15-16 November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_argentina.pdf

¹¹ Gov’t extends tax amnesty once again, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 24 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/177999/gov%E2%80%99t-extends-tax-amnesty-once-again>

¹² Gov’t raises retail price for tax applied to luxury car sales, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 2 January 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/178524/gov%E2%80%99t-raises-retail-price-for-tax-applied-to-luxury-car-sales>

On 14 January 2015, the government of Argentina launched the second phase of the Argentine Northeastern Pipeline (GNEA) initiative. The project requires an investment of ARS11.35 billion and will create about 11,000 jobs. The pipeline will give the provinces of Chaco, Formosa, and the northern Santa Fe access to natural gas.¹³

On 16 January 2015, the 2014 budget of the Argentine government received additional revenue worth ARS9.9 billion. The additional revenue has improved the balance of the 2014 budget. The radio spectrum auction and money from the ANSeS social security agency are the major sources of this revenue.¹⁴

On 3 February 2015, the Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos chief Ricardo Echegaray reported that the Argentine government's tax collection had increased by 30.1% in January 2015 to ARS117.5 billion. This increase includes 40.8% increase in income taxes, 34.3% increase in social security contributions and 23.2% increase in value-added tax. The revenue collected in January was ARS1.7 billion above the target set in this year's budget. Tax collections from foreign trade-based revenue brought in only ARS4.3 billion, an 8.5% increase, while import royalties contributed ARS2.8 billion, up by 11.6%.¹⁵

Argentina has taken various measures to generate tax revenue and balance its budget in line with its stated fiscal policy objectives. For instance, Argentina has increased its tax revenue from ARS101.8 billion on 30 November 2014 to ARS117.46 billion at the beginning of February 2015.¹⁶ However, Argentina has not tackled its spending challenges in unsustainable areas like energy consumption and public transit.

Argentina has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Kei Zamaninoor

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Australia has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Reduce tax and government spending
- Achieve fiscal consolidation at a measured pace without undermining the economy's near-term growth, and achieve average budget surpluses over the progression of the economic cycle by: 1) redirecting spending to investments that boost productivity and participation; 2) reducing the

¹³ Gov't launches second phase of gas pipeline, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 15 January 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/179568/gov%E2%80%99t-launches-second-phase-of-gas-pipeline>

¹⁴ 2014 budget increases by 9.9 billion pesos, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 16 January 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/179643/2014-budget-increases-by-99-billion-pesos>

¹⁵ Tax collection grows 30 percent, Buenos Aires Herald (Buenos Aires) 3 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.buenosairesherald.com/article/181066/tax-collection-grows-30-percent>

¹⁶ Argentina Tax Revenue, Bloomberg (NYC) 28 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/quote/ARTXTOTL:IND>

government's share of the economy over time through reduction in payments and paying down debt; and 3) improving financial net worth over time

- Follow its Budget Repair Strategy until a strong surplus is achieved. This means all new government spending must be more than offset and all unexpected improvements in receipts and payments must be used to directly improve the budget
- Improve the cash balance deficit from 4.5% of GDP in 2013-2014 to 0.9% of GDP in 2016-2017 en route to a balanced budget around 2018-2019
- Cap tax receipts as a share of GDP
- Reduce company tax rate by 1.5 percentage points in July 2015, offsetting the cost of the government's Paid Parental Leave Scheme.¹⁷

In December 2014, the Australian government published its Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2014-2015 (MYEFO). The MYEFO determined that both the troubled economy, linked to a decrease in iron ore prices (Australia's top export), and legislation delays in the Senate had a significant impact on tax receipts, payments, and the budget's bottom-line.¹⁸ Overall, tax receipts were lower and government payments had increased more than forecasted.¹⁹ The MYEFO stated that underlying cash balances and fiscal balances had both deteriorated since the introduction of the budget in May. However, despite these setbacks, the government continues to progress on budget repair. The 2015 Intergenerations Report shows that measures already implemented are projected to make a significant contribution towards achieving fiscal sustainability over the long term.

The MYEFO stated that the Government of Australia has "more than offset all of its new spending decisions, other than those decisions taken as part of negotiations with the Senate."²⁰ The MYEFO also maintained Australia's commitment to improving the long-term sustainability of the budget stating, "the Path of fiscal consolidation and policy settings will be considered comprehensively as part of the normal annual Budget process."²¹

In its MYEFO, the Government of Australia formally announced initiatives aimed at improving efficiency of government agencies and increasing public savings. These smaller government reforms involve (1) abolishment of 138 government bodies; (2) consolidation of 15 government bodies into existing government departments; (3) transfer of two bodies out of the Commonwealth; and (4) merging of 26 governmental bodies (for a net reduction of 20).²² These reforms build upon previous attempts to decrease government spending.

¹⁷ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Australia, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 15-16 November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_australia.pdf

¹⁸ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2014-15, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/index.htm>

¹⁹ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2014-15, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/index.htm>

²⁰ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2014-15, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/index.htm>

²¹ Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2014-15, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2014-15/content/myefo/html/index.htm>

²² Smaller, More Efficient and Effective Government, Minister for Finance (Canberra) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2014/1215-smaller-gov.html>

On 20 February 2015 Treasurer Joe Hockey and Minister of Finance Mathias Cormann issued a joint media release announcing the Australian government had successfully passed the Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2013. This Bill involves a AUS100 million cap on research and development expenditure that companies can claim in their taxes.²³ Hockey and Cormann say this is an important budget saving tool for the Senate.²⁴

On 27 February 2015 Minister of Finance Mathias Cormann released the Australian Government General Sector Monthly Financial Statements for January 2015. The fiscal balance for the year up until 31 January 2015 was a deficit of AUD 31,458 million compared to the revised budget profile deficit of AUD 34,132 million. The difference of AUD 2,674 million is largely related to lower than expected cash payments.²⁵

Australia has made multiple efforts aimed at increasing government savings and key tax reforms. Although Australia has not consistently met budget deficit reduction targets outlined in its forecasts, it has identified barriers to this and recommitted to prioritize fiscal consolidation. Australia has not, however, taken any action to lower its company tax rate.

Australia has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Australia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Rebecca Patrick

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Brazil has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Fiscal consolidation to support sustainable economic growth and control inflation
- Fiscal sustainability, with an aim towards reducing debt as a share of GDP
- Rebalancing expenditures from concurrent expenses towards investment
- Expansion of social safety nets so as to reduce poverty and income inequality.²⁶

On 26 November 2014, the Brazilian government recorded a primary surplus of BRL4.1 billion for the month of October, a recovery from a deficit of BRL20.4 billion for the month of September. With this result, Brazil had an accumulated deficit of BRL11.6 billion for the year of 2014, and a surplus of BRL31.9 billion for the previous 12-month period on its debt payment account. National Treasury Secretary Arno Augustin stated that the Ministry of Finance was already working with a

²³ Senate Supports Labor's R&D Savings Measure Despite Labor Opposition, Minister for Finance (Canberra) 10 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2015/0210-senate-supports-savings.html>

²⁴ Senate Supports Labor's R&D Savings Measure Despite Labor Opposition, Minister for Finance (Canberra) 10 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.financeminister.gov.au/media/2015/0210-senate-supports-savings.html>

²⁵ Australian Government General Government Sector Monthly Financial Statements May 2015, Australian Government Department of Finance, 25 June 2015. Date of access: 27 August 2015. <http://www.finance.gov.au/publications/commonwealth-monthly-financial-statements/2015/mfs-may/>

²⁶ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Brazil. G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) October 2014. Date of access: 22 February 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_brazil.pdf

target of BRL10.1 billion surplus for the central government in 2014, as opposed to the BRL80.8 billion expected on the last budget review decree. He stated the target “is what we consider best for the moment” and emphasized the increase of 41.1% in payments to the Growth Acceleration Program, totalling BRL51.5 billion between the months of January and October.²⁷

In his first address to the press on 5 January 2015, new Finance Minister Joaquim Levy emphasized the need for promoting fiscal adjustment and a better control of public expenditures. The changes proposed by Joaquim Levy include modifications to the payment of unemployment insurance and pensions. The measures are an attempt at improving the country’s cost expenditure profile.²⁸

On 29 January 2015, the National Treasury announced the fiscal results of the central government, showing a primary surplus of BRL1 billion in December 2014. From January to December the results showed a cumulative deficit of BRL17.2 billion, which represented -0.3% of the GDP. According to a statement by National Treasury Secretary Marcelo Barbosa Saintive, a frustrated revenue collection of 1.7% and an increase in expenses of 0.4% impacted those results, which he believes helps explain the disparity in projections made in November to the presented results. Mr. Saintive also announced the creation of a task force formed by the Ministries of Planning, Finance, Civil House, and Comptroller General of the Union to examine public expenditures, in order to address “the need for fiscal robustness and a greater control of expenditure.”²⁹

On 11 February 2015, the National Treasury Secretary (STN) Annual Report revealed that the federal public debt’s stock closed 2014 at BRL2.295 trillion, within the range established by the Annual Financing Plan (PAF).³⁰ On the same day, the STN also released the PAF for 2015, fixing a higher limit for the public debt’s stock from BRL2.450 trillion to BRL2.6 trillion.³¹

During an event organized by the Chamber of Commerce France-Brazil held on 23 February 2015 in São Paulo, Joaquim Levy defended the fiscal adjustment measures highlighting that there was a fiscal imbalance in 2014, which led to an increase in the country’s debt-to-GDP ratio.³² Included in the measures announced by the government are limitations to social benefits, such as unemployment insurance, an increase in the interest charged by the Brazilian Development Bank, the increase in

²⁷ Governo Central tem superavit primário de R\$ 4,1 bilhões em outubro. Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 26 November 2014. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2014-1/novembro/governo-central-tem-superavit-primario-de-r-4-1-bilhoes-em-outubro>

²⁸ Joaquim Levy acredita em retomada da economia sem parada brusca, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 5 January 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/joaquim-levy-diz-acreditar-em-reequilibrio-da-economia-sem-parada-brusca>

²⁹ Vamos cumprir meta de superavit e recuperar credibilidade, diz Saintive. Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 29 January 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/janeiro/201cvamos-cumprir-meta-de-superavit-e-recuperar-credibilidade201d-diz-saintive>

³⁰ Dívida pública encerra 2014 dentro da meta do governo, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 11 February 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/divida-publica-encerra-2014-dentro-da-meta-do-governo>

³¹ Limite para estoque da Dívida Pública será de R\$ 2,600 trilhões em 2015, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 11 February 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/limite-para-estoque-da-divida-publica-sera-de-r-2-600-trilhoes-em-2015>

³² Levy defende ajuste fiscal em apresentação para empresários em São Paulo, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 23 February 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/levy-defende-ajuste-fiscal-em-apresentacao-para-empresarios-em-sao-paulo>

taxing of fuel, automobiles, credit operations, cosmetics, and the end of transfers to the Energy Development Account.³³

Following the announcement on 26 February 2015 that the federal public debt had diminished in January to BRL2.29 trillion, mostly affected by a seasonal movement according to José Franco Medeiros de Moraes, coordinator of the Public Debt Operations, the government published decree n° 8.412.³⁴ The decree brought about a reprogramming of various financial obligations of the Executive Power for the period of January to April. National Treasury Secretary Marcelo Saintive stated the government was rescheduling its payments in order to give a greater predictability to the ministries.³⁵

In January, the central government recorded a primary surplus of BRL10.4 billion, the lowest result for the month of January since 2009.³⁶ The twelve-month accumulated results showed a deficit of BRL19.9 billion. Compared to January of the previous year, revenue increased 0.3%, from BRL125 billion to BRL125.4 billion.³⁷ Expenditures increased 2.8%, from BRL90 billion to BRL92.5 billion, caused mainly by an increase in social security expenses, which rose 8.4%, from BRL29.1 billion to BRL31.5 billion, resulting from the minimum wage increase. The Secretary also highlighted the reduction of 34.5% of the expenses related to the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC), from BRL7.2 billion in January 2014 to BRL4.7 billion in January 2015.³⁸ The government's economic team also imposed a reduction of 23.7% on the expenses of the PAC until April.³⁹

Brazil has taken steps that are in line with the country's commitment to implement fiscal policies to promote sustainability. These steps include a tightening of fiscal policies and a greater emphasis on the control of public expenditure. The rising debt-to-GDP ratio in 2014 is recognized as having resulting from a fiscal imbalance during the year. With the re-election of President Dilma Rousseff, a new economic team was formed and changes to the current fiscal policies have been announced. These changes are understood to trade short-term economic contraction in favour of medium-term sustainable economic growth.⁴⁰

³³ Governo lança programação para gastos e não descarta novas medidas, Globo (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://g1.globo.com/economia/noticia/2015/02/governo-lanca-programacao-para-gastos-e-nao-descarta-novas-medidas.html>

³⁴ Dívida pública federal caiu 2,09% em janeiro para R\$ 2,24 trilhões, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/divida-publica-federal-caiu-2-09-em-janeiro-para-r-2-24-trilhoes>

³⁵ Governo reprograma gastos para atingir meta fiscal, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/governo-reprograma-gastos-para-atingir-meta-fiscal>

³⁶ Governo lança programação para gastos e não descarta novas medidas, Globo (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://g1.globo.com/economia/noticia/2015/02/governo-lanca-programacao-para-gastos-e-nao-descarta-novas-medidas.html>

³⁷ Governo reprograma gastos para atingir meta fiscal, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/governo-reprograma-gastos-para-atingir-meta-fiscal>

³⁸ Governo reprograma gastos para atingir meta fiscal, Ministry of Finance (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.fazenda.gov.br/divulgacao/noticias/2015/fevereiro/governo-reprograma-gastos-para-atingir-meta-fiscal>

³⁹ Equipe econômica fixa redução de 23,7% em gastos do PAC até abril, Globo (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://g1.globo.com/economia/noticia/2015/02/equipe-economica-autoriza-reducao-de-237-em-gastos-do-pac-ate-abril.html>

⁴⁰ Putting Brazil's Political Risk in Perspective, Forbes (NYC) 13 Mar 2015. Date of access: 13 Mar 2015. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2015/03/13/putting-brazils-political-risk-in-perspective/>

Brazil has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Artur Pereira

Canada: -1

Canada has not complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Canada has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Balanced federal budgets from 2015 and the introduction of balanced budget legislation
- Federal debt-to-GDP ratio of 25% GDP by 2021.⁴¹

More generally, Canada's proposed strategy for economic growth formulated for the G20 Australian Summit consisted of five key commitments: (1) infrastructure investment; (2) enhanced job matching service and a modernized national job bank; (3) reduced barriers to entry and promotion of competition in telecommunications sector; (4) new funding for research and innovation; and (5) Canada-EU comprehensive economic and trade agreement and the Canada-Korea free trade agreement.⁴²

On 24 November 2014, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced new investments that will continue to build and renew government infrastructure, from harbours and shipbuilding yards to national defence facilities across Canada. The Canadian government has pledged CAD5.8 billion in investments towards these projects — the majority of which to take place in the next three years.⁴³

On 19 February 2014, Prime Minister Harper announced that Canada is cutting taxes on liquefied natural gas projects in order to spur growth in the industry. Under this tax cut, liquefied natural gas assets acquired over the next decade will enjoy a capital cost allowance rate of 30% for equipment, and 10% for buildings as compared to 8% for equipment and 6% for structures before the cut.⁴⁴

On 1 March 2015, Finance Minister Joe Oliver announced that Canada would extend its 15% mineral exploration tax credit for one more year to support small mining companies. The credit, now scheduled to expire 31 March 2016, has “helped keep investment flowing” in the extractive sector, according to the Canadian government.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Canada. G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) October 2014. Date of access: 22 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_canada.pdf

⁴² Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Canada, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 January 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_canada.pdf

⁴³ Harper unveils \$5.8 billion in infrastructure spending, *The Globe and Mail* (Toronto) 24 Nov 2014. Date of access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/harper-unveils-58-billion-in-infrastructure-spending/article21736451/>

⁴⁴ “Canada to reduce taxes for LNG projects, Stephen Harper says,” *Financial Post* (Toronto) 19 Feb 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015. http://business.financialpost.com/2015/02/19/canada-to-reduce-taxes-for-lng-projects-stephen-harper-says/?__lsa=3a9c-1926

⁴⁵ Canada to extend 15% mineral exploration tax credit to 2016, *Bloomberg Business* (Ottawa) 1 Mar 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-01/canada-to-extend-15-mineral-exploration-tax-credit-to-2016>

Canada has implemented fiscal policies in infrastructure investment and tax reform. However, Canada has not taken action to achieve the two principle aspects of its comprehensive growth strategy: balanced budget legislation and reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio.

Canada has made no progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Luke Tianxing Li

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

China has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- To stabilize near-term growth
- To further boost consumption
- To allow the market to play its basic role and promote private sector involvement
- To support growth and employment
- To reform its fiscal and financial sector.⁴⁶

On 2 February 2015, the State Council announced a new guideline on transfer payments to streamline administrative management, reduce unnecessary spending, and promote equal development in China. According to the Chinese government, this guideline “will allow the market to play a decisive role, and will gradually restrict special [transfer payments] in competitive businesses and industries, to maintain a fair environment for market competition.”⁴⁷

On 10 February 2015, Chinese President Xi Jinping participated in the ninth meeting of the Central Leading Group on Financial and Economic Affairs and demanded stable urbanization in China. President Xi urged faster reform and innovation in investment and financing to better engage public infrastructure construction.⁴⁸

On 25 February 2015, the State Council pledged to pursue a proactive fiscal policy with measures to introduce more tax cuts and lower administrative fees to better support small and micro-sized businesses and to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation. The new policies will expand the range of beneficiaries to include higher income groups, lower unemployment insurance fees, and shift to requiring installment payments rather than one-time payments on taxes from actual investment interest from non-monetary assets.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: China, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_china.pdf

⁴⁷ Transfer payment guideline to promote equal development, The State Council of The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 2 Feb 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/policies/latest_releases/2015/02/02/content_281475049185334.htm

⁴⁸ Xi stresses implementing central economic policies, Xinhuanet (Beijing) 10 Feb 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2015-02/10/c_127481077.htm

⁴⁹ Quick view: The State Council executive meeting on Feb 25, The State Council of The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 26 Feb 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/policies/infographics/2015/02/26/content_281475061970428.htm

On 3 March 2015, China's Vice Finance Minister Zhu Guangyao made declared that China's fiscal policy will continue to be proactive going forward. Minister Zhu made the comments at the opening of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, stating that the finance ministry is making fiscal reforms to address the root cause to mounting local government debt.⁵⁰

China has begun to make progress towards fiscal sustainability, including through promoting equal development and reducing growth of local government debt. However, there has been little evidence demonstrating that China's debt-to-GDP ratio has changed in a manner that places the country on a more sustainable path.

China has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, China is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Luke Tianxing Li

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product on a sustainable path.

France has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Lowering the cost of factors of production to stimulate employment and business competitiveness
- Lightening the tax burden of low-income households to boost purchasing power and increase incentives to take up a job
- Modernizing markets to allow for productivity gains, lower prices for consumers and boost companies' competitiveness gains
- Supporting productive investment to increase long-term growth
- Reducing red tape, which will in turn reduce production costs and help rein in public expenditures.⁵¹

The growth strategy referenced EUR50bn in savings between 2015 and 2017 needed to reduce expenditure growth into line with inflation: an effort that would lead to further deficit reduction without raising taxes.

On 18 December 2014, the French parliament approved President François Hollande's revised 2015 budget. The budget included measures to cut spending, but still carried a sizeable deficit, in contradiction of EU budget constraints.⁵² On 26 March 2014, the French government cuts its deficit targets, indicating stronger economic recovery than was reflected in the 2015 budget.⁵³

On 17 February 2015, a package of economic reforms known as Macron Law, passed the National Assembly. The reforms are designed to revive the economy, to improve legislative efficiency and to boost growth by loosening restrictive practices to promote energy and confidence in the French

⁵⁰ Update 2 – China will keep fiscal policy proactive – vice finmin, Reuters (Beijing) 3 Mar 2015. Date of access: 3 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/03/china-parliament-idUSL4N0W53E720150303>

⁵¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: France, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 14 November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_france.pdf

⁵² France 2015 Budget to Curb Spending, Wall Street Journal (Paris) 1 October 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/france-2015-budget-to-curb-spending-1412150641>

⁵³ France cuts 2015 deficit target, eyes economic recovery, Reuters (Paris) 26 March 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/26/us-france-economy-idUSKBN0MM0NN20150326>

economy.⁵⁴ Specific measures of the reforms include the selling of 5% to 10% of the EUR100 billion portfolio of state-owned assets over the next 18 months, deregulating medical, legal and notary practices, allowing stores to be open on Sunday 12 times a year (compared to five), and liberalizing the inter-city coach industry. Macron Law was praised in a joint statement of euro zone finance ministers that read, “We welcome the commitments of France to address the structural weaknesses of the economy and encourage the implementation of the ambitious and wide-ranging reform agenda.”⁵⁵

On 10 March 2015, EU finance ministers approved a two-year extension for France to bring its budget deficit in line with EU rules, while calling for additional efforts to reduce spending.⁵⁶ The previous 2015 deadline to reduce its deficit below the 3% threshold was extended to 2017. The new agreement requires France’s budget deficit to be at 4% by 2015, 2.4% by 2016, and 2.8% by 2017. Valdis Dombrovskis, European Commission VP for the euro, indicated that the deadlines are fixed and that the European Commission would reassess France’s fiscal performance in the next two to three months. This is the seventh consecutive year France has exceeded the EU’s target deficit.

France faces significant economic challenges. It has now experienced its third year of near-zero growth and has failed again to meet the EU’s target budget deficit threshold. The French government has passed new economic reforms and there are signals indicating that the French economy is in a stage of recovery and is setting itself on a trajectory of growth.

France has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, France is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Luke Tianxing Li

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Germany has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Recommit to complying with all international fiscal commitments at the EU and G20 level
- Balance the federal budget (in nominal terms) in 2015
- Decrease debt ratio to below 65% by 2018 from 76.9% of GDP in 2013
- Preserve a balanced budget while scaling up infrastructure investment.⁵⁷

On 28 November 2014, the Bundestag approved Germany’s 2015 budget. For the first time since 1969, Germany recorded a balanced budget, owing largely to an increase in tax revenues and low

⁵⁴ France’s Socialist Party pushes free-market deregulation with Macron Law, WSWS (Paris) 17 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2014/12/17/macron-d17.html>

⁵⁵ Macron Seeks Blair Moment in France for Hollande’s Economic Push, Bloomberg Business (Paris) 8 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-12-08/macron-seeks-blair-moment-in-france-for-hollande-s-economic-push>

⁵⁶ France Gets Respite on Budget Deficit as More Reforms Demanded, Bloomberg (Brussels) 10 March 2015. Date of access: 10 March 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-10/france-gets-respite-on-budget-deficit-as-more-reforms-demanded>

⁵⁷ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Germany, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 14 November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_germany.pdf

interest rates, as well as a 2.2 billion-euro rebate from the EU.⁵⁸ In 2014 the government attained EUR11.9 billion (USD13.9 billion) budget surplus, representing 0.4% of GDP.

On 2 March 2015, German government officials reached a final agreement on how the funds from the EUR10 billion investment package proposed by Minister Schäuble will be allocated. The group decided that between 2016 and 2018, a total of EUR7 billion in federal government spending will be targeted in five key areas: public transportation infrastructure, energy efficiency, digital infrastructure, combating climate change, and urban development. The remaining EUR3 billion will be directed toward government ministries according to the amount that each ministry has paid to finance the recently introduced supplementary child care benefits.⁵⁹

In a 4 March 2015 press release, the federal government announced it would go ahead with measures to support financially weak local authorities. The federal government committed to investing EUR1.5 billion to local authorities in 2017, in addition to the EUR1 billion already invested. The federal government also committed to establishing a fund for the exclusive purpose of boosting investment by local authorities with inadequate financial resources. It plans to endow the fund with a total of EUR3.5 billion up to the year 2018.⁶⁰

Germany has recorded its first balanced budget in over four decades, committed to substantial investment in infrastructure, and is poised to meet many of its fiscal objectives in 2015. However, there is no indication that Germany is reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio.

Germany has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Germany is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitali Selivanov

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

India has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Medium-term fiscal consolidation, deficit-to-GDP targets of 4.1% in 2014-15, 3.6% in 2015-16, and 3% in 2016-17
- Create a stable tax regime with measures for reduced litigation and dispute resolution
- Fiscal consolidation through enhanced revenue mobilization and rationalized expenditures
- Provide more targeted subsidies (e.g. food, petroleum, and a new urea subsidy), while ensuring full protection to the poor
- Establish an expenditure management commission to oversee the operational efficiency of governmental spending.⁶¹

⁵⁸ Bundestag approves 2015 budget with no new debt, DW (Berlin) 28 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.dw.de/bundestag-approves-2015-budget-with-no-new-debt/a-18099625>

⁵⁹ http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2015-03-04-investment.html

⁶⁰ http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Financial_markets/Articles/2015-03-04-investment.html

⁶¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: India, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 14 November 2014. Date of access: 10 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_india_01.pdf

On 28 February 2015, Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley announced the Union Budget for 2015-2016. In his budget announcement, Minister of Finance Jaitley recommitted to a fiscal deficit target for this fiscal year (ending 31 March 2016) of 4.1% of GDP. Minister of Finance Jaitley also revealed that the Indian government would postpone its 2015-2016 budget deficit target of 3.6% to 3.9% of GDP in order to make greater space for infrastructure development in the country. To this end, Finance Minister Jaitley also announced an increase in INR700 trillion (USD11.4 billion) in road and rail investments and power generation projects in the next year.^{62,63}

The debt policy in India emphasizes maintaining a stable, sustainable, low-cost and prudent debt structure. The government of India is in process of introducing necessary legislation and setting up its own Public Debt Management Agency. The “Middle Office” has been established in the meantime. One major change is the 10% increase of the states’ share in the net proceeds of union tax revenues to 42%. The decentralization of revenue has “significantly constrained the Centre’s fiscal resources,” the minister was quoted as saying.⁶⁴

The Union Budget revealed that the government of India will be implementing a Goods and Services Tax that will come into effect 1 April 2016. The Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha stated that the new tax will “fundamentally change the taxing power of the states, local governments and the Centre,” and through the devolution to the states, it will transform the “fiscal architecture” of the Indian government.⁶⁵

India has made progress towards its fiscal sustainability, including through reforms to taxes and creating fiscal space for much-needed infrastructure development. However, it has yet to take definitive steps towards key subsidy reforms, such as its urea subsidy.

India has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, India is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna Roach

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Indonesia has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- A recognized need for sound, effective and sustainable fiscal policy
- Commitment to keep the current account deficit to a maximum of 3% of GDP through revenue optimization and improving the quality of spending

⁶² Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement, Union Budget of India 2015 (New Delhi) 28 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2015-16/frbm/frbm3.pdf>

⁶³ Jaitley goes for growth, delays cut in fiscal deficit, Government of India (New Delhi) 28 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/budget/jaitley-unveils-budget-for-growth-investment/article6944653.ece?homepage=true>

⁶⁴ Budget 2015 not pro-rich, it has something for all: Jayant Sinha, India Times (New Delhi) 10 March 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/budget-2015-not-pro-rich-it-has-something-for-all-jayant-sinha/articleshow/46469289.cms>

⁶⁵ GST will transform India's fiscal architecture: Jayant Sinha, India Times (New Delhi) 5 March 2015. Date of access: 6 March 2015. <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/gst-will-transform-indias-fiscal-architecture-jayant-sinha/articleshow/46468367.cms>

- Financing infrastructure projects to improve Indonesia's supply chain in order to drive economic growth
- Energy subsidy reform to minimize growing burden to the government budget
- Broadening its tax base and modernizing tax administration to increase government revenue.⁶⁶

Effective 1 January 2015, Indonesian President Joko Widodo implemented a fixed diesel subsidy system to replace the traditional petroleum subsidy program.⁶⁷ Prior to this move, subsidies would comprise 13% of total expenditure in 2015 but has been reduced to as little as 1%. The government expects about IDR200 trillion in savings from these subsidy cuts.⁶⁸

On 9 January 2015, President Joko Widodo submitted a revised state budget for 2015. The draft fiscal plan increased its expenditure on infrastructure development to IDR281.1 trillion.⁶⁹ The World Bank has considered a lack of adequate infrastructure to be a barrier to Indonesia's ability to improve economic growth. The President aims to improve the interconnectivity issue in Indonesia and to enhance its domestic economy with the increase in infrastructure budget.

On 13 February 2015, the Indonesian People's Representative Council approved the final version of its revised state budget 2015.⁷⁰ The new state budget targets higher tax revenue through tax administration reform and expanding its taxpayer base. The Indonesian government aims to introduce a tax amnesty and expects the resulting tax revenue to reduce its current budget deficit.

Indonesia has eliminated petroleum subsidies and invested in improved infrastructure. However, it has not taken any action to keep its current account deficit to the self-imposed 3% maximum.

Indonesia has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Indonesia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Freda Zhang

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Italy has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Support recovery and raise Italy's growth rate while complying with European budgetary rules
- Adjust timeframe for convergence with Medium Term Objective from 2015 to 2017

⁶⁶ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Indonesia, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of access: 2 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_indonesia1.pdf

⁶⁷ Widodo Makes Biggest Change to Indonesia Fuel Subsidies: Economy, Bloomberg Business (NYC) 30 December 2014. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-12-31/widodo-makes-biggest-change-to-indonesias-fuel-subsidy-system>

⁶⁸ Budget 2015: Indonesia's revised fiscal plan envisages substantial rise in infrastructure spending, but implementation constraints remain, IHS (United States) 28 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.ihs.com/country-industry-forecasting.html?ID=1065997790>

⁶⁹ Budget 2015: Indonesia's revised fiscal plan envisages substantial rise in infrastructure spending, but implementation constraints remain, IHS (United States) 28 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.ihs.com/country-industry-forecasting.html?ID=1065997790>

⁷⁰ Indonesian 2015 Budget Targets Higher Revenue, The Global Business Network (Portsmouth) 19 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://tgs-global.com/news/indonesian-2015-budget-targets-higher-revenue/>

- Implement tax reforms to promote a more equitable, transparent, simplified and growth-oriented tax system (e.g., the 2015 Stability Law)
- Streamline government spending in areas of public administration, justice system, social welfare, and privatization and dismissal of state-owned real estate.⁷¹

On 28 November 2014, the European Commission postponed its decision on whether to put Italy under a disciplinary process for failing to tackle their high and rising public debt.⁷² Italy, along with France and Belgium, then pledged structural reforms and other fiscal steps to comply with the commission requirements.⁷³ However, the European Commission ultimately decided against penalizing Italy.⁷⁴

On 30 December 2014, following results showing improvements to employment levels, Italy's Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan said that the "slowdown in the Italian economy had ended."⁷⁵ Italy's economy had not experienced a quarter of growth in the previous three years, and the government forecasted a decrease of 0.3% in economic output for 2014 followed by an increase in economic output of 0.6% for 2015. He also stated that the country's public debt, second only to Greece in the euro zone, would start to fall in 2016.⁷⁶

On 2 January 2015, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced that based on the preliminary data for the month of December, the public sector borrowing requirement in 2014 was expected to grow to EUR76.8 billion, an increase of more than EUR3.5 billion compared to 2013. The statement also showed an estimated surplus of EUR5.1 billion, as compared to an estimate of EUR15.58 billion made in December of 2013. This result is seen as a consequence of a reduction in tax receipts along with an increase in withdrawals from the treasury accounts. These withdrawals resulted from the payment of debts of the public administration, higher interest payments on the public debt, which was due to a different scheduling of deadlines, and contributions to the EU budget.⁷⁷

On 19 February 2015, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reevaluated Italy's prospective growth for 2015 from an initial 0.2% prediction made in November to 0.6%. According to the OECD, this increase would be attributed to the "European Central Bank's expansionary measures, the depreciation of the euro, the fall of oil prices, and less restrictive fiscal

⁷¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Italy. G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) October 2014. Date of access: 22 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_italy.pdf

⁷² EU puts off French and Italian budget rulings until March, Reuters (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/28/us-eu-budgets-idUSKCN0JC0R620141128>

⁷³ France, Italy, Belgium promise reform in letters to EU-Dombrovskis, Reuters (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/28/eu-budgets-dombrovskis-letters-idUSL6N0T11UW20141128>

⁷⁴ EU gives France until 2017 to cut deficit; Italy, Belgium in clear, Reuters (Brussels) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/25/us-eu-budgets-idUSKBN0LT1QU20150225>

⁷⁵ UPDATE 1-Slowdown in Italian economy has ended - Econmin to Corriere, Reuters (Brussels) 30 December 2014. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/30/italy-economy-growth-idUSL6N0UE0C320141230>

⁷⁶ UPDATE 1-Slowdown in Italian economy has ended - Econmin to Corriere, Reuters (Brussels) 30 December 2014. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/30/italy-economy-growth-idUSL6N0UE0C320141230>

⁷⁷ Fabbisogno statale 2014: 76,8 miliardi, in miglioramento di 3,5 miliardi sul 2013, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 2 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.mef.gov.it/ufficio-stampa/comunicati/2015/comunicato_0001.html

policies by the government.”⁷⁸ The OECD report differed from the Italian government’s prediction on the expected public debt-to-GDP ratio, stating that it would reach 132.8% for 2015 and 133.5% for 2016. As part of its recommendations, the OECD included the adoption of structural reforms to Italy’s labour market and judicial systems, an increase in competition, and a simplification of the legislation as well as being combative with corruption.⁷⁹

On 21 February 2015, Italy’s Ministry of Economy and Finance, together with the Treasury Department, presented a document displaying the structural reforms the country had undertaken since September 2014. The document outlined the planned reforms and their implementation timetables, along with their macroeconomic impacts. The government policy measures included the Jobs Act, as part of the labour market reform, increased efficiency of the public administration, reforms to the civil justice system, deregulation of credit and improved access to capital markets, simplification of the tax system, and the reform of the educational system.⁸⁰ Included in the reforms to the tax system was the 2015 Stability Law, effective beginning 1 January 2015, which was aimed at reducing the tax wedge on labour and introducing fiscal incentives for firms who hired workers with open ended contracts.⁸¹

In the European Commission’s Country Report on Italy, presented on 18 March 2015, the Italian economy’s growth was predicted to turn positive in 2015 (but still remain below the EU average), and its debt-to-GDP ratio was set to increase. The commission stated that although Italy’s fiscal adjustment measures had “helped avert immediate sustainability risks,”⁸² high government debt still remained a heavy burden for the Italian economy and was a major source of its vulnerability. The report also highlighted Italy’s efforts to considerably reduce the tax burden on labour over the past year, but emphasized that it is still high. The report concluded that Italy had made some progress in addressing the recommendations presented in 2014, however, it saw “limited, and sometimes delayed” progress in several areas.⁸³

Italy has taken some steps towards the improvement of its fiscal position. Following a three-year recession, Italy’s economic prospects have shown improvements with better results on employment levels. However, Italy has failed to maintain a stable debt-to-GDP ratio, with mixed reports on possible improvements for the 2016 fiscal year. The government’s adjustment of its Medium Term Objective plan will slow the pace of fiscal reform, but is designed to ultimately generate momentum for growth in Italy’s future.

⁷⁸ OECD raises Italy 2015 GDP forecast to 0.6 percent, Reuters (Rome) 19 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/19/us-italy-economy-oecd-idUSKBN0LN0TN20150219>

⁷⁹ OECD raises Italy 2015 GDP forecast to 0.6 percent, Reuters (Rome) 19 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/19/us-italy-economy-oecd-idUSKBN0LN0TN20150219>

⁸⁰ 2014: A turning point for Italy: Structural reforms in Italy since September 2014. Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome), 21 February 2015. Date of access: 2 April 2015. http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/documenti/riforme_strutturali.pdf

⁸¹ 2014: A turning point for Italy: Structural reforms in Italy since September 2014, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 21 February 2015. Date of access: 2 April 2015. http://www.mef.gov.it/inevidenza/documenti/riforme_strutturali.pdf

⁸² Country Report Italy 2015 including an In-Depth Review on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2015. Date of access: 2 April 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2015/cr2015_italy_en.pdf

⁸³ Country Report Italy 2015 including an In-Depth Review on the prevention and correction of macroeconomic imbalances, European Commission (Brussels) 18 March 2015. Date of access: 2 April 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/csr2015/cr2015_italy_en.pdf

Italy has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Therefore, Italy is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Artur Pereira

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Japan has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Fiscal consolidation against a backdrop of very high public debt, in line with fiscal targets
- Halving the primary deficit-to-GDP ratio from FY2010 in FY2015 in order to achieve a primary surplus by FY2020
- Growth-oriented corporate tax reform, aimed at reducing corporate tax rates (to be offset by broadening its overall tax base)
- Increasing consumption tax to 10%, taking various economic and other situations into account.⁸⁴

On 27 December 2014, the Japanese government introduced the Immediate Economic Measures for Extending Virtuous Cycles to Local Economies. This package targets vulnerable areas of the economy, with the intent (1) to stimulate consumption while considering different economic conditions among regions; (2) to revitalize local economies facing structural challenges through effective initiatives such as job creation; and (3) to accelerate post-disaster recovery and other emergency responses, and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake.⁸⁵

On 12 January 2015, the Japanese cabinet approved its FY2015 Budget of JPY96.34 trillion. The FY2015 budget aimed to achieve both economic revitalization and fiscal consolidation through: (1) its economic stimulus package, (2) FY2014 supplementary budget, and (3) FY2015 tax reform. The budget signalled a JPY2.79 trillion increase to spending from FY2014, with notable increases directed towards social security and national defence. In efforts to further reduce its debt, the government reduced bond issuance by JPY4.4 trillion, the third consecutive decrease and lowest in six years.⁸⁶ The budget also indicated that Japan is on target to halve its deficit-to-GDP ratio from -6.6% (FY2010) to -3.3% by FY2015.⁸⁷

On 14 January 2015, the Japanese government released the cabinet's decision on its 2015 Tax Reform. The decision highlighted corporate tax reductions from 25.5% to 23.9% in FY2015 and 23.9% in FY2016, as well as international harmonization of taxations related to cross-border transactions, such as automatic exchange of information on financial accounts held by non-residents. Lastly, the

⁸⁴ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Japan, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of access: 2 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_japan.pdf

⁸⁵ Immediate Economic Measures for Extending Virtuous Cycles to Local Economies, Ministry of Finance (Japan) 27 December 2014. Date of access: 25 March 2015.

http://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/keizaitaisaku/2014/141227_economic_measures_all.pdf

⁸⁶ Japan readies record \$800 billion 2015-16 budget: sources. Takaya Yamaguchi, Reuters (Tokyo) 11 January 2015. Date of access: 25 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/11/us-japan-economy-budget-idUSKBN0KK08J20150111>

⁸⁷ Highlights of the Draft Budget for FY2015, Ministry of Finance (Japan) 14 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.mof.go.jp/english/budget/budget/fy2015/01.pdf>

reform indicated a postponement of the consumption tax hike until 1 April 2017 after a decrease in demand following last year's consumption tax hike.⁸⁸

On 12 February 2015, the cabinet released its Fiscal 2015 Economic Outlook and Basic Stance for Fiscal and Economic Management.⁸⁹ The document identified a modest recovery in FY2014 owing to the implementation of the administration's "three arrows" strategy, which emphasizes sound fiscal policy, bold monetary policy, and growth that promotes private investment. Despite the implementation of the Immediate Economic Measures package and an increase in social security-related costs, government spending is expected to decrease approximately 2.1% in FY2015.

On 12 February 2015, Japanese Minister of Finance Taro Aso outlined the Supplementary Budget for FY2014 at the 189rd Session of the National Diet.⁹⁰ The supplementary budget for FY2014 is a part of the "Immediate Economic Measures for Extending Virtuous Cycles to Local Economies," which aims to address the vulnerable areas of the Japanese economy. The budget will allocate a total of JPY3.5059 trillion to various sections of the "Immediate Economic Measures," including: (1) Livelihood and Lifestyle Support, (2) Revitalization of Local Communities, (3) Disaster and Emergency Response, (4) Special Account for Reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake, and (5) local tax grants.

Despite its enormous public debt, Japan has implemented some fiscal strategies flexibly and in alignment with the fiscal objectives outlined in its comprehensive growth strategy. Such measures included growth-oriented tax reforms and spending towards certain vulnerable regions of Japan's economy. Japan also appears to be on track to halve its debt-to-GDP ratio by the end of FY2015. However, it is not clear that the cost of corporate tax reforms to the Japanese government have been entirely offset by broadening of the tax base.

Japan has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Freda Zhang

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

Korea has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Introduce a stimulus package worth KRW40.7 trillion to raise GDP growth by 0.1-0.2% in 2014 and by 0.3% in 2015
- Introduce tax schemes to support household income and boost domestic consumption
- Revise Fund Expenditure Plan to support low-income family housing, increase access to financing for small businesses, tourism, and distribution of agricultural and fishery products

⁸⁸ FY2015 Tax Reform (Main Points), Ministry of Finance (Japan) 14 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.mof.go.jp/english/tax_policy/tax_reform/fy2015/tax2015a.pdf

⁸⁹ Fiscal 2015 Economic Outlook and Basic Stance for Economic and Fiscal Management, Cabinet Office (Government of Japan) 12 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. <http://www5.cao.go.jp/keizai1/2015/0212mitoshi-e.pdf>

⁹⁰ Speech on Fiscal Policy by Minister of Finance Aso at the 189rd Session of the National Diet, Ministry of Finance (Japan) 12 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. http://www.mof.go.jp/english/public_relations/statement/fiscal_policy_speech/e20150212.html

- Increase budget execution to expand central and local government spending by KRW2.8 trillion in 2014
- Create a 2015 budget that is expansionary but will not compromise mid-term fiscal soundness.⁹¹

On 26 December 2014, the Korean government announced 14 tax enforcement decrees, including three tax packages to boost household income and a derivatives capital gains tax. These tax packages are aimed at boosting earned income, increasing dividend income and strengthening the link between corporate earnings and household income.⁹² These three tax packages were implemented 1 January 2015.

On 9 February 2015, President Park Geun-hye made statements against plans to increase taxes to finance an expansion of the welfare system. President Park highlighted that “what is most important is to seek ways to offer welfare to the people, while minimizing the burden laid on them” during a regular meeting with her senior secretaries. Park urged the National Assembly and the government to focus on working to revive the economy in order to increase tax revenue rather than relying on tax hikes, arguing that raising taxes would be an act of betraying the people.⁹³

On 25 February 2015, President Park Geun-hye stated during a secretarial meeting that the South Korean government should place economic revival as its top priority in managing state affairs this year. President Park emphasized that increasing domestic consumption and instituting reforms in the labour, public, finance and educational sectors could accomplish this. Executive Office Cheong Wa Dae also stressed the urgency of the core reform agenda and the importance of the reforms to “improve conditions across the Korean economy and society to promote sustainable growth.”⁹⁴

Korea has made progress towards changes to its tax measures and reforms to its key sectors. It is unclear as of yet what impact this will have on Korea’s debt-to-GDP ratio.

South Korea has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Korea is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Luke Tianxing Li

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

Mexico has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its Comprehensive Growth Strategies:

- Secure a downward trend of public debt through a comprehensive fiscal consolidation strategy, while anticipating public debt to GDP to peak in 2015-16

⁹¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Republic of Korea, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_south_korea.pdf

⁹² 2014 Decree Revision Focuses On Boosting Income, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Seoul) 26 December 2014.

Date of access: 2 March 2015. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pre/view.do?bcd=N0001&seq=3752&bPage=1>

⁹³ Park rebuffs call for tax increase, The Korean Times (Seoul) 9 February 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/02/116_173289.html

⁹⁴ President prioritizes economic revival, Korea.net (Seoul) 24 February 2015. Date of access: 2 March 2015.

<http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=125801>

- Continue the implementation of the National Infrastructure Program 2014-2018 (NIP) to promote economic growth through investment in infrastructure
- Strengthen the fiscal responsibility law
- Improve the efficiency and quality of public spending in infrastructure, health, and welfare programs.⁹⁵

On 14 November 2014, the Mexican Chamber of Deputies approved the Federation's Budget Expenditures for the Fiscal Year of 2015 at MXN4.695 billion, which represented an increase of 1.6% compared to the approved budget in 2014. The government allocated MXN65.833 million to investments in road infrastructure, regional development projects in states and municipalities, infrastructure for schools in rural regions of the country, as well as social programs. The approved budget contributes to the completion of the National Goals from the National Development Plan 2013-2018, and is designed to promote structural reforms.⁹⁶

On 18 November 2014, the Mexican government performed a debt issuance in the international market for a total of USD2 billion in Global Stocks with maturity in 2025. This issuance included improvements in contracts of foreign debt following recommendations from the International Capital Market Association, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the G20.⁹⁷

On 26 November 2014, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (SHCP) and the Central Bank declared that the IMF's Executive Board had approved the renewal of the Flexible Credit Line (LCF) for Mexico. The approval of this credit line requires that the country show a sustainable trajectory of the public debt and healthy public finances, low and stable inflation expectations, a well-capitalized financial system, and effective monitoring of the financial sector.⁹⁸

On 16 December 2014, the SHCP presented the Annual Financing Plan for 2015, which contained the objectives of the public credit policies for the fiscal year and the strategies necessary for its achievement. A net federal government debt of 3.1% of GDP was estimated for 2015, a decrease of 0.4% from 2014. The President's administration reaffirmed their commitment to maintaining prudent management of the public debt, emphasizing the need for macroeconomic stability, resulting from fiscal and monetary discipline, and a stable financial system that allows for long-term savings.⁹⁹

The central objectives of Mexico's public debt policy, in line with the National Development Plan and the National Development Financing Program, include: addressing the federal government's financing needs with the lowest costs and risks consistent with a long-term plan, while accounting for

⁹⁵ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Mexico, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) October 2014. Date of access: 22 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_mexico.pdf

⁹⁶ SE APRUEBA PRESUPUESTO DE EGRESOS DE LA FEDERACION PARA EL EJERCICIO FISCAL DE 2015, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 14 November 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015.

http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/noviembre/comunicado_098_2014.pdf

⁹⁷ El Gobierno de Mexico Introduce un Nuevo Estandar Internacional en los Contratos de Deuda Externa y Emite un Nuevo Bono de Referencia a 10 Años en Dólares, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 18 November 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015.

http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/noviembre/comunicado_100_2014.pdf

⁹⁸ El Fondo Monetario Internacional renueva la Línea de Crédito Flexible para México resaltando la fortaleza de su economía, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 26 November 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015.

http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/noviembre/comunicado_103_2014.pdf

⁹⁹ LA SECRETARÍA DE HACIENDA Y CRÉDITO PÚBLICO PRESENTA EL PLAN ANUAL DE FINANCIAMIENTO 2015, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 16 December 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015.

http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/diciembre/comunicado_110_2014.pdf

possible extreme scenarios; preserving the diversity and access to credit in different markets; and ensuring that the public debt policy facilitates access for financing to an ample array of Mexican economic agents, both public and private.¹⁰⁰

On 30 December 2014, the SHCP presented the results of public expenditures and the public debt for the month of November 2014. The results showed an increase in the public sector's net expenditure, and specifically an increase of 8.2% from January to November relative to the same period last year. The balance for the internal public debt saw an increase of MXN420.8 billion and the external debt increased by USD14.5 billion, both in comparison to December 2013. These results were consistent with the approved goals by the Union's Congress for the year of 2014.¹⁰¹

On 30 January 2015, the SHCP announced measures to demonstrate improved fiscal responsibility that will enhance the pursuit of economic stability. The announcement highlighted that the public finances were poised to handle international volatility for the year 2015, including an adjustment of the federal government's expenditures in order to deal with medium-term volatility.¹⁰² This adjustment is targeted at the federal government's current expenditure, which corresponds to 65% of its total department and agency costs. The predicted adjustment to public expenditure corresponds to an increase of MXN124.3 billion, which represents 0.7% of the GDP. Included in the announcement was the statement that the government had initiated a revision of the expenditure budget for the fiscal year of 2016.¹⁰³

On the same day, the SHCP also announced the results for the fourth quarter of 2014. The results showed a total public debt of MXN545 billion, 3.2% of the GDP, which was lower than the annual target approved by the Union's Congress. With these results, the debt of the Federal Public Sector amounted to 38.3% of the GDP.¹⁰⁴

Mexico has taken several steps to maintain a sustainable trajectory and to adopt measures that are necessary for a sustainable public debt ratio, however it has not taken any action to strengthen its fiscal responsibility law, as outlined in its comprehensive growth strategy.

Mexico has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Artur Pereira

¹⁰⁰ LA SECRETARÍA DE HACIENDA Y CRÉDITO PÚBLICO PRESENTA EL PLAN ANUAL DE FINANCIAMIENTO 2015, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 16 December 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/diciembre/comunicado_110_2014.pdf

¹⁰¹ LAS FINANZAS PÚBLICAS Y LA DEUDA PÚBLICA A NOVIEMBRE DE 2014, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 30 December 2014. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/diciembre/comunicado_113_2014.pdf

¹⁰² LA SHCP ANUNCIA MEDIDAS DE RESPONSABILIDAD FISCAL PARA MANTENER LA ESTABILIDAD, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 30 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2015/enero/comunicado_007_2015.pdf

¹⁰³ LA SHCP ANUNCIA MEDIDAS DE RESPONSABILIDAD FISCAL PARA MANTENER LA ESTABILIDAD, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 30 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2015/enero/comunicado_007_2015.pdf

¹⁰⁴ INFORMES SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN ECONÓMICA, LAS FINANZAS PÚBLICAS Y LA DEUDA PÚBLICA, Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 30 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2015/enero/comunicado_008_2015.pdf

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on fiscal strategies.

According to the Russian comprehensive growth strategy adopted at the Brisbane Summit and the St. Petersburg fiscal template, Russia's strategy mid-term for debt sustainability provides for maintaining a low overall debt burden, moderate budget deficits and targeting increased size of fiscal buffers.¹⁰⁵

Russian external debt, as reported by the Bank of Russia, decreased from USD729 billion on 1 January 2014 to USD559 billion as of 1 April 2015.¹⁰⁶

On 5 March 2015, Russian finance minister Anton Siluanov declared that optimization measures implemented by the government, mainly cuts in spending, allowed lowering the projections for the budget deficit in 2015 from 5.2 to 3.8% of GDP.¹⁰⁷

The minister also mentioned that by the end of 2015 financial authorities plan to spend more than RUB3 trillion from the RUB5 billion Reserve Fund. However, to address this increase in fiscal buffers, the government started developing measures aimed at achieving the balanced federal budget by 2016-2017 and increasing the volume of the Reserve Fund later on.¹⁰⁸

During the compliance period Russia has not managed to achieve all its fiscal targets provided for by the comprehensive growth strategy adopted at the G20 Brisbane Summit. At the same time, it has taken measures to accommodate its fiscal policies following the recent economic shock caused by the fall in oil prices and exchange rates volatility. Thus, Russia is given a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

Saudi Arabia has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Increase public spending in order to stimulate economic activity through investment in increasing production capacities to enhance supply, as well as increasing government consumption
- Increase non-oil public revenue from 10.1% in 2014 to 13.9% in 2019
- Continue to increase the capital of government credit institutions in line with demand for loans
- Manage budget surplus in a manner that achieves high and growing economic return.¹⁰⁹

¹⁰⁵ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Russia, G20 Australia November 2014. Access date: 14 May 2015.

http://g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_russia.pdf.

¹⁰⁶ Russian external debt estimates as of 1 April 2015, Bank of Russia April 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015.

http://cbr.ru/statistics/credit_statistics/debt_est_new.xlsx.

¹⁰⁷ Speech of the Russian finance minister Anton Siluanov at the briefing following the government's meeting, Russian Ministry of Finance 5 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. http://www.minfin.ru/ru/press-center/?id_4=33107.

¹⁰⁸ Speech of the Russian finance minister Anton Siluanov at the briefing following the government's meeting, Russian Ministry of Finance 5 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. http://www.minfin.ru/ru/press-center/?id_4=33107.

¹⁰⁹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_saudi_arabia.pdf

Given its already low debt-to-GDP ratio, 1.6% in 2014,¹¹⁰ the Saudi government put forth no changes to policies relating to its public debt over the medium-term.¹¹¹

On 17 November 2014, Saudi Arabia's Finance Minister Ibrahim Alassaf stated that, despite the downward trend in oil prices, there would be no direct impact on Saudi Arabia's budget for the 2015 fiscal year, as "the kingdom has always been keen on building its budgets on estimates that take all possibilities into consideration."¹¹²

On 17 December 2014, Alassaf said that the Kingdom's countercyclical fiscal policy for the previous years, which allowed Saudi Arabia to build net foreign assets totalling USD734 billion when oil prices were high, would assist in the maintenance of the development projects and social benefits for 2015.¹¹³ The focus of the investment programs would be targeted at infrastructure, education, health, security, social services, municipal services, water and water treatment services, roads and highways, with emphasis on science and technology projects, as stated in the 2015 National Budget.¹¹⁴

On 25 December 2014, Saudi Arabia announced it would be lifting state spending for the 2015 budget to SAR860 billion, a record high, which corresponded to an increase of 0.6% from the SAR855 billion 2014 budget, the smallest increase in over a decade. The projected revenues would drop to SAR715 billion on 2015 from SAR855 billion for the previous year. The government stated that the deficit would be covered by its fiscal reserves¹¹⁵ and on 26 December 2014, Finance Minister Ibrahim Alassaf stated that some borrowing from the domestic financial market would also be considered.¹¹⁶

The Ministry of Finance's statement about the national budget for 2015 also pointed towards a decline in public debt from SAR60.1 billion at the end of 2013, to SAR44.3 billion by the end of 2014, this value represented approximately 1.6% of the GDP for the 2014 fiscal year.¹¹⁷

Furthermore, on the national budget statement, according to the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), total exports were estimated to be of USD359.6 billion, a 4.4% decrease from 2013, while

¹¹⁰ Gulf economies well positioned to cope with lower oil prices, Arab News (Riyadh) 23 February 2015. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/economy/news/708336>

¹¹¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_saudi_arabia.pdf

¹¹² No direct impact on Saudi budget from oil slide -minister, Reuters (Riyadh) 17 November 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/11/17/saudi-budget-oil-idUSL6N0T714520141117>

¹¹³ Saudi Arabia to keep spending in 2015 budget: finance minister, Reuters (Riyadh) 17 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/17/us-saudi-finmin-budget-idUSKBN0JVORC20141217>

¹¹⁴ Press Release: Recent Economic Developments and Highlights of Fiscal Years 1435/1436 (2014) & 1436/1437 (2015), Ministry of Finance (Riyadh) 25 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.mof.gov.sa/English/DownloadsCenter/Budget/Ministry's%20of%20Finance%20statement%20about%20the%20national%20budget%20for%202015.pdf>

¹¹⁵ Saudis to keep spending heavily in 2015 budget, shrug off oil plunge, Reuters (Riyadh) 25 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/25/saudi-budget-idUSL6N0U90AZ20141225>

¹¹⁶ Saudi ministry to discuss deficit financing with central bank, Reuters (Riyadh) 26 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/26/saudi-budget-financing-idUSL6N0UA04720141226>

¹¹⁷ Press Release: Recent Economic Developments and Highlights of Fiscal Years 1435/1436 (2014) & 1436/1437 (2015), Ministry of Finance (Riyadh) 25 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.mof.gov.sa/English/DownloadsCenter/Budget/Ministry's%20of%20Finance%20statement%20about%20the%20national%20budget%20for%202015.pdf>

total imports were estimated to be USD150.4 billion, a 2.6% decrease as compared to 2013. This accounted for a trade balance surplus of USD210.3 billion, a 5.6% decline from 2013.¹¹⁸

On 9 February 2015, Standard & Poor's lowered Saudi Arabia's economic outlook from "stable" to "negative" as a result of plummeting oil prices. The agency stated that the change is resultant from the country's dependence on the oil sector, an estimated 90% of its government revenue,¹¹⁹ and its undiversifiable nature.¹²⁰

On 10 February 2015, SAMA's Governor Fahad Al-Mubarak stated that a reform was needed to the system of subsidies that the government provided to the energy and water system. Although the governor gave no indication that the Saudi government had plans for concrete action, he stated, "One of the existing challenges is enhancing the efficiency of the local consumption of energy and water, which resulted in distortion and a large waste of those important resources in addition to increasing the financial burdens on the government."¹²¹

On 7 March 2015, an announcement revealed that SAMA's foreign reserve assets had increased by USD2 billion, reaching USD730 billion in January. This increase followed consecutive decreases for the previous four months. This volatility was related to a "fall in oil export revenues, while government spending was kept at an elevated level," according to Jadwa Investment economists.¹²²

Given a successful countercyclical strategy on previous years, the Saudi government has accumulated large fiscal reserves that enable it to maintain its trend towards investments that enable domestic growth. However, given the country's dependency on the oil sector, coupled with the plummeting of prices, there is a need to weaken their fiscal position through deficits in public spending in order to maintain the desired levels of investments.

Saudi Arabia has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Saudi Arabia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Artur Pereira

South Africa: -1

South Africa has not complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

South Africa has outlined the following fiscal strategies in their comprehensive growth strategy:

- Reducing infrastructure constraints through public investments

¹¹⁸ Press Release: Recent Economic Developments and Highlights of Fiscal Years 1435/1436 (2014) & 1436/1437 (2015), Ministry of Finance (Riyadh) 25 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.mof.gov.sa/English/DownloadsCenter/Budget/Ministry's%20of%20Finance%20statement%20about%20the%20national%20budget%20for%202015.pdf>

¹¹⁹ Saudi set for tighter 2015 budget after oil price falls, Reuters (Riyadh) 2 December 2014. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/02/saudi-budget-idUSL6N0TL1MI20141202>

¹²⁰ S&P lowers outlook on Saudi Arabia due to plunge in oil prices, Reuters (Riyadh) 9 February 2015. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/09/saudi-sp-idUSL4NOVJ61C20150209>

¹²¹ SAMA chief calls for energy subsidy reform, Arab News (Jeddah) 10 February 2015. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/701941>

¹²² Rebound in oil prices to boost Saudi export revenues, Arab News (Jeddah) 7 March 2015. Date of access: 12 March 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/economy/news/715071>

- Pursuing countercyclical policy by providing support to economic recovery while reducing the budget deficit over the medium term
- Stabilizing debt-to-GDP ratio over the medium term
- Issuing cost containment guidelines to apply to public sector institutions at the national and provincial levels.¹²³

On 25 February 2015, the South African government unveiled ZAR35 billion in new taxes and spending cuts.¹²⁴ The plan aims in part to reinvigorate a failing power system, which has dragged down growth and deterred investors.

In the budget announcement, Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene stood by a pledge to keep the deficit at 3.9% of GDP in the fiscal year and narrow it to 2.5% by 2018.¹²⁵ To do so while upholding South Africa's welfare programs, Nene announced higher taxes on fuel, which adds about 8% to the price of gas.¹²⁶ The package also includes a 1% increase in income tax for those earning more than ZAR182,000, representing the first increase since 1995.¹²⁷

However, these measures totalling a net ZAR8.2 billion for the current fiscal year appear to fall short of the treasury's commitment to raise revenue by ZAR27 billion over the next two years.¹²⁸ As a result, the treasury expects fiscal debt-to-GDP ratio to increase from 46.2% in FY2015 to 47.6% in FY2018.¹²⁹ Unsustainable debt levels has led some rating agencies lower the country's credit rating, which is now close to junk status.¹³⁰

Though South Africa has committed to major infrastructure investments, its current fiscal strategy to finance such programs raises concern among rating agencies. The country's debt-to-GDP ratio is poised to increase.

South Africa has made no progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Steven Lampert

¹²³ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: South Africa, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_south_africa.pdf

¹²⁴ South Africa Announces \$3 Billion in New Taxes, Spending Cuts, The Wall Street Journal (Pretoria) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/south-africa-announces-3-billion-in-new-taxes-spending-cuts-1424868889>.

¹²⁵ 2015 Budget Speech, National Treasury (Pretoria) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2015/speech/speech.pdf>.

¹²⁶ South Africa Announces \$3 Billion in New Taxes, Spending Cuts, The Wall Street Journal (Pretoria) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/south-africa-announces-3-billion-in-new-taxes-spending-cuts-1424868889>.

¹²⁷ South Africa raises income tax rates for first time in 20 years in gloomy budget, Reuters (Cape Town) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/25/safrica-budget-idUSL5N0VZ3BO20150225>.

¹²⁸ South African Budget Shows Persistent Fiscal Challenges, Reuters (London) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/idUSFit91540620150226>.

¹²⁹ South African Budget Shows Persistent Fiscal Challenges, Reuters (London) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/idUSFit91540620150226>.

¹³⁰ South Africa Announces \$3 Billion in New Taxes, Spending Cuts, The Wall Street Journal (Pretoria) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/south-africa-announces-3-billion-in-new-taxes-spending-cuts-1424868889>.

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

Turkey has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Improving public infrastructure
- Maintain positive primary balances and declining debt to GSP ratios
- Implementing cost-benefit analysis for government service procurement
- Enhancing technology and innovation¹³¹

On 4 December 2014, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan announced that the government will implement a new phase of transparency reforms. The construction industry is one of the main targeted sectors. The plan will help with improving competition and fairness in the construction sector amid concerns about corruption, a priority of the G20 countries.¹³²

On 18 December 2014, the Government of Turkey introduced a comprehensive action plan to help boost the economy's growth. Turkey's year-on-year GDP grew by only 1.7% in the third quarter of 2014, which was significantly below the expected 3%. Key objectives of the plan include: "increasing domestic savings at the national level, preventing wastefulness, rationalizing public expenditure, raising the quality of public revenue, improving the business and investment climate, and developing statistical information on infrastructure."¹³³

On 18 February 2015, new budget figures indicated that the government's tax income increased by 6.6% to TRY34.8 billion. This increase was attributed to higher revenues from indirect taxes such as added value taxes, up by 19.2%, and consumption taxes, up by 16.7%. The income from consumption tax on cigarettes also surged to TRY3.3 billion, a 37% increase compared to the same month last year.¹³⁴

On 25 February 2015, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Ahmet Davutoğlu, announced that the government would make TRY2 billion (USD815 million) available to support farmers for fuel, fertilizer and forage crop purchases at the end of the month.¹³⁵ The government has already transferred TRY3 billion to 42 provinces for rural developments, and an additional TRY3 billion will be transferred in the next five years.

¹³¹ Comprehensive Growth Strategy – Turkey, G20 Australia (Brisbane) 15-16 November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_turkey.pdf

¹³² Turkish gov't to announce new transparency reforms: Deputy PM Babacan, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 4 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-govt-to-announce-new-transparency-reforms-deputy-pm-babacan-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75209&NewsCatID=344>

¹³³ Turkey's new economic action plans urge savings, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-new-economic-action-plans-urge-savings-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=75805&NewsCatID=344>

¹³⁴ Income from indirect taxes fuels Turkey's budget, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 18 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/income-from-indirect-taxes-fuels-turkeys-budget.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78477&NewsCatID=344>

¹³⁵ Turkey to pay 2 billion liras to support farmers by end of February: PM, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 25 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-to-pay-2-billion-liras-to-support-farmers-by-end-of-february-pm-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78862&NewsCatID=344>

On 4 February 2015, Turkey and Finland signed a Joint Economic and Trade Committee agreement to boost trade and investment. Turkey wants to attract USD300 million worth of foreign direct investment over the next decade. Both countries agree that cooperation between their small and medium-sized businesses is key to increasing investments and trade.¹³⁶

Turkey has made progress in promoting competitiveness, innovation and healthy streams of government income. However, it is unclear whether this will reduce its debt-to-GDP ratio.

Turkey has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Kei Zamaninoor

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

The UK has outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Deficit reduction
- Financial system reform
- Continue infrastructure investment
- Investment support for small and medium enterprises
- Public debt is on a sustainable, downward path.¹³⁷

On 15 December 2014, the Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander published an updated Charter for Budget Responsibility. The purpose of the charter is to commit the government to reducing the deficit and debt, and “to establish transparent arrangements so that it can be held to account for delivering that commitment.”¹³⁸

The fiscal mandate in the previous charter was first set in 2010, and targeted returning the cyclically adjusted current budget to balance over a rolling five-year period. Since then, the government has made significant progress on its fiscal consolidation, having decreased its debt-to-GDP ratio from its peak of 4.7% of GDP in 2009-10 to 2.6% in 2013-14.¹³⁹ The UK has therefore met its fiscal deficit reduction targets two years earlier than expected.

However, Chancellor Osborne said the UK is unlikely to meet its commitment to putting debt-to-GDP levels on a declining path by 2015-16. The ratio is expected to peak at 81.1% this fiscal year.

¹³⁶ Turkey, Finland sign Joint Economic and Trade Committee agreement, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 4 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2014. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-finland-sign-joint-economic-and-trade-committee-agreement-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77895&NewsCatID=344>

¹³⁷ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: United Kingdom, G20 Australia 2014 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_united_kingdom.pdf

¹³⁸ Updated Charter for Budget Responsibility, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-charter-for-budget-responsibility>

¹³⁹ Updated Charter for Budget Responsibility, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-charter-for-budget-responsibility>

The revised Charter for Budget Responsibility set a new target for debt to be falling as a percentage of GDP in 2016-17.¹⁴⁰

In order to meet the new debt-to-GDP targets, the government will be required to make additional tax increases or spending cuts of around EUR30 billion.¹⁴¹ The Conservative government, though facing an upcoming national election in May, plans to make these budget adjustments through a combination of reducing welfare spending, squeezing departmental budgets, and cracking down on tax avoidance.¹⁴²

Chancellor Osborne reinforced the UK's commitment to reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio to the Economic Club of New York on 15 December 2014,¹⁴³ and at the OECD's biennial Economic Survey of the UK press conference on 24 February 2015.¹⁴⁴

Though the UK has successfully reduced its fiscal deficit to sustainable levels, the debt-to-GDP ratio still raises concern. Having yet to implement the spending cuts to reverse this trend, the UK has not fully complied with its growth strategy commitments.

The United Kingdom has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, the United Kingdom is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Steven Lampert

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of GDP on a sustainable path.

The United States outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Deficit reduction over the medium-term to 2.1% of the economy by the ten-year budget window.
- Put debt-to-GDP ratio on a declining path.¹⁴⁵

On 26 January 2015, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its annual 10-year fiscal forecast. The report indicated some positive trends for US fiscal sustainability. The cost of healthcare

¹⁴⁰ Updated Charter for Budget Responsibility, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-charter-for-budget-responsibility>

¹⁴¹ George Osborne's budget charter approved by MPs, BBC News UK Edition (London) 13 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-30794472>

¹⁴² David Cameron warns of 'legacy of debt', BBC News UK Edition (London) 12 January 2015. Date of access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-30773974>

¹⁴³ George Osborne's speech to the Economic Club of New York, HM Treasury (London) 15 December 2014. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/george-osbornes-speech-to-the-economic-club-of-new-york>

¹⁴⁴ Chancellor's opening remarks at the OECD UK economic survey press conference, HM Treasury (London) 24 February 2015. Date of access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/chancellors-opening-remarks-at-the-oecd-uk-economic-survey-press-conference>

¹⁴⁵ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: United States, G20 Summit (Australia) 30 November 2014. Date of access: 25 February 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_united_states.pdf

reform, once projected to be USD710 billion between 2015-2019, is now slated at USD571 billion, representing a 20% reduction.¹⁴⁶

On 2 February 2015, President Barack Obama unveiled his USD4 trillion FY2016 budget request.¹⁴⁷ The proposal — which still needs to pass through the political process — is consistent with the country's growth strategy objectives. The White House intends for the budget to “end the harmful spending cuts known as sequestration” implemented in 2011.¹⁴⁸ This is possible given the government's estimated USD1.8 trillion in new revenues and almost USD400 billion in spending reductions.¹⁴⁹ The new revenue and cost cuts are reflected in the aforementioned healthcare savings as well as a proposed 4.2% increase in the capital gains tax for couples earning over USD500,000.¹⁵⁰

The government intends to use the additional money to finance certain new programs, such as a USD478 billion package to repair public infrastructure and a USD75 billion initiative to provide all children under four years old from low-income families with access to “high quality” preschool.¹⁵¹

The impact of the proposed budget on the debt-to-GDP ratio is unclear. The government claims the ratio will level towards 73% by 2025, representing a modest 1% decrease from 2014.¹⁵² The CBO disagrees with this projection and believes the ratio will rise “to nearly 79 per cent of GDP” by 2025.¹⁵³ The outcome may depend on future interest rate levels.¹⁵⁴

While the United States has taken some steps to see through the flexible fiscal strategies outlined in its growth strategy, it remains unclear whether the country will uphold its commitment to decreasing its debt-to-GDP ratio.

The United States has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, the United States is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Steven Lampert

¹⁴⁶ The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025, Congressional Budget Office (Washington) 26 January 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/49892-Outlook2015.pdf>

¹⁴⁷ Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

¹⁴⁸ Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

¹⁴⁹ Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

¹⁵⁰ Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

¹⁵¹ Fiscal Year 2016 Budget of the U.S. Government, Office of Management and Budget (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

¹⁵² Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the President's FY2016 Budget, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/02/press-briefing-senior-administration-officials-presidents-fy2016-budget>

¹⁵³ The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2015 to 2025, Congressional Budget Office (Washington) 26 January 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/49892-Outlook2015.pdf>

¹⁵⁴ The Debt Non-Spiral, New York Times (NYC) 27 January 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. <http://krugman.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/01/27/the-debt-non-spiral/>

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to continue to implement fiscal strategies flexibly, taking into account near-term economic conditions, while putting debt as a share of gross domestic product (GDP) on a sustainable path.

The European Union outlined the following fiscal strategies in its comprehensive growth strategy:

- Pursue growth-friendly fiscal consolidation according to each member's fiscal situation, including a mix of expenditure cuts and revenue measures
- Increase efficiency of public expenditure and maintain an adequate level of productive public investment
- Introduce tax reforms to make the tax system fairer and more efficient
- Coordinate member states' fiscal policies to ensure medium-term objectives.¹⁵⁵

On 28 November 2014 the European Commission released its Annual Growth Survey 2015 outlining the key features of its growth agenda. The survey called for an integrated approach to growth using three pillars: 1) a coordinated boost to investment; 2) a renewed commitment to structural reforms; and 3) pursuit of fiscal responsibility.¹⁵⁶ The outcome of the Growth Survey reflects the EU's commitment towards its comprehensive growth strategy.

In conjunction with the Annual Growth Survey 2015, the commission announced a EUR315 billion investment plan on 26 November 2014 titled the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).¹⁵⁷ The EFSI is meant to increase both public and private investments over the next three years, particularly towards strategic investments to propel Europe towards growth once again. On 13 January 2015, the commission took an important step towards implementing EFSI through adopting its legislative proposal, keeping the investment plan on track to be set up by June 2015. This move should contribute to an increased efficiency of public expenditure.

On 18 February 2015 the commission signalled its commitment to fighting tax avoidance and aggressive tax planning. The College of Commissioners outlined possible ways to make taxation more fair and transparent. They also agreed upon a tax transparency package to be released in March 2015.¹⁵⁸ These tax reforms should help to increase tax revenues for the member states.

The commission continues to assess the draft budgetary plans of EU member states in order to identify those that are at risk of non-compliance with the Stability Growth Pact. The 2015 Draft Budgetary Plan summarizes the draft budgets that governments submit to national parliaments and provides policy advice to those states. Through the draft budgetary plans the commission is trying to

¹⁵⁵ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: European Union (Brisbane) October 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_european_union.pdf

¹⁵⁶ Annual Growth Survey 2015, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2015/ags2015_en.pdf

¹⁵⁷ EU Launches Investment Offensive to Boost Jobs and Growth, European Commission (Strasbourg) 26 November 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2128_en.htm

¹⁵⁸ European Commission Lays The Foundation for a Fairer and More Transparent Approach to Taxation in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4436_en.htm

improve economic policy coordination within the EU.¹⁵⁹ Non-compliance requires a country's deficit to be above 3% of GDP or for it to have a general government debt more than 60% of GDP, while not declining at a satisfactory pace.¹⁶⁰ The most recent assessment, on 28 November 2014, identified seven countries (Belgium, Spain, France, Italy, Malta, Austria and Portugal) as at risk of non-compliance, four countries as broadly compliant and five countries as fully compliant.¹⁶¹

On 13 January 2015 the commission provided further guidance on the use of the Stability and Growth Pact's flexibility. It recognized the need for rules that are flexible to be applied over time and across countries. The commission is left with some discretion to assess public finances and recommend actions so that countries can have fiscal policies that are more growth-friendly.¹⁶²

On 26 February 2015, The commission presented the economic surveillance package outlining its analysis of member countries' fiscal situations and updating its guidance towards fiscal policy for member countries. The package specifically assesses the fiscal situations of member states and establishes a new set of country specific recommendations in May 2015.¹⁶³

On 9 December 2014 the 2015 EU budget was approved by the council, stating an increase in total payments for tackling the large scale of unpaid bills being offset by additional revenue from areas like fine collection and financial surplus from previous years.¹⁶⁴ Further, the Winter Economic Forecast indicated that the economies of all EU members are expected to grow this year for the first time since 2007, along with a reduction in general government deficits continuing and deficit-to-GDP ratios forecasted to continue falling over the next two years.¹⁶⁵

The EU has made progress towards implementing fiscal policies consistent with its stated economic growth objectives in government spending and tax reform. Additionally, the debt-to-GDP ratios of member countries are forecasted to continue to fall. However, these forecasts are based on member states implementing EU fiscal recommendations, which has been inconsistent across those states.

The European Union has made some progress towards implementing the fiscal policy measures stated in its comprehensive growth strategy. Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Rebecca Patrick

¹⁵⁹ 2015 Draft Budgetary Plans: Overall Assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/economic_governance/sgp/pdf/dbp/2014/communication_to_euro_area_member_states_2014_dbp_en.pdf

¹⁶⁰ European Semester 2015: Country-Specific Updates, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4511_en.htm

¹⁶¹ 2015 Draft Budgetary Plans: Overall Assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/economic_governance/sgp/pdf/dbp/2014/communication_to_euro_area_member_states_2014_dbp_en.pdf

¹⁶² Stability and Growth Pact: Commission Issues Guidance to Encourage Structural Reforms and Investment, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 January 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3220_en.htm

¹⁶³ European Semester 2015: Country-Specific Updates, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4511_en.htm

¹⁶⁴ EU Budget 2015 Gets Council Approval, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 9 December 2014. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/ecofin/146122.pdf

¹⁶⁵ Winter Economic Forecast: Outlook Improved but Risks Remain, European Commission (Brussels) 5 February 2015. Date of access: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4085_en.htm

2. Macroeconomics: Investment

“We are working to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors ... particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.45	

Background

At the meeting in Moscow on 15-16 February 2013, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) presented a report on the Role of Banks, Equity Markets and Institutional Investors in Long-Term Financing for Growth and Development. The report highlights the importance of long-term finance in satisfying long-term physical investment needs across all sectors and the high potential of institutional investors (such as pension funds and insurance companies).¹⁶⁶ At this meeting, the G20 leaders established a Study Group on Financing for Investment.

At the G20 Saint Petersburg summit in September 2013, the G20 leaders endorsed the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors. The eight principles are (1) preconditions for long-term investment, (2) development of institutional investors and long-term savings, (3) governance of institutional investors, remuneration and asset management delegation, (4) financial regulation, valuation and tax treatment, (5) financing vehicles and support for long-term investment and collaboration among institutional investors, (6) investment restrictions, (7)

¹⁶⁶ The Role of Banks, Equity Markets and Institutional Investors in Long-Term Financing for Growth and Development, OECD (Paris) 2013. Date of Access: 3 April 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/private-pensions/G20reportLTFinancingForGrowthRussianPresidency2013.pdf>

information sharing and disclosure, and (8) financial education, awareness and consumer protection. G20 leaders called on the OECD and other interested participants to identify approaches for their implementation by the next summit.

On 15-16 November 2014, at the Brisbane Summit, the G20 leaders committed to “facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors and to encourage market sources of finance, including transparent securitisation, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises.” The Report on Effective Approaches to Support Implementation of the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on Long-term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors was presented at the Brisbane Summit. To reflect the high priority placed on this issue by the 2014 G20 Australian presidency, the study group has been upgraded to a Working Group on Investment and Infrastructure.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 members to take measures to establish conditions that are favourable for institutional investors and to support the long-term financing needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The commitment focuses on improving domestic investment and financing climates, with emphasis on “the voluntary implementation of the G20/OECD High-Level Principles of Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investor.”

Positive actions for creating enabling conditions for institutional investors are outlined in the G20/OECD High Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors. The report outlines six principles: (1) preconditions for long-term investments, (2) development of institutional investors and long-term savings, (3) governance of institutional investors, remuneration and asset management delegation, (4) financial regulation, valuation and tax treatment, (5) financing vehicles and support for long-term investment and collaboration among institutional investors, and (6) information sharing and disclosure.¹⁶⁷

Positive actions for supporting the long-term financing needs of small and medium-size enterprises are also outlined in the G20/OECD report. Common effective approaches include designing flexible regulatory regimes governing institutional investors; offering an array of tailored assistance measures (e.g. expert advice, training programs and consulting); providing guarantees on loans to small businesses and/or preferential tax rates for small businesses. Innovative effective approaches include establishing a public investment fund; establishing special vehicles to provide tax concessions for registered venture capital funds; offering exemptions on capital gains on qualified small business; and simplifying the legal framework governing commercial paper.¹⁶⁸

Thus, to achieve full compliance with this commitment the G20 member must take actions to both improve market and regulatory conditions for institutional investors, including those supporting the long-term financing needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

¹⁶⁷ Report on Effective Approaches to Support Implementation of the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors, OECD (Paris) 2014. Date of Access: 3 April 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/7.1%20G20-OECD%20Report%20on%20Effective%20Approaches%20to%20Support%20Implementation%20of%20the%20G20-OECD%20High-Level%20Principles.pdf>

¹⁶⁸ Report on Effective Approaches to Support Implementation of the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors, OECD (Paris) 2014. Date of Access: 3 April 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/7.1%20G20-OECD%20Report%20on%20Effective%20Approaches%20to%20Support%20Implementation%20of%20the%20G20-OECD%20High-Level%20Principles.pdf>

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member takes no steps to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors.
0	Member takes steps to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors that do not directly address the financial needs of SMEs.
+1	Member takes steps to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, including those that address SMEs financial needs.

Lead Analyst: Justice M. Durland

Argentina: -1

Argentina has not complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 3 September 2014, Argentina's Poverty Reduction Program took steps to strengthen the awareness for the policy and assistance and how it works for SMEs.¹⁶⁹ However, the program primarily targeted employment rather than access to credit for SMEs.

On 30 October 2014, Argentina's congress approved a new hydrocarbons law to establish a fresh regulatory framework intended to accelerate investment in the country's shale resources. The law aimed to simplify investment standards and streamline processes for the oil industry.¹⁷⁰

On 4 February 2015, Argentina took steps to increase foreign investment following the signing of a package of 22 agreements with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.¹⁷¹ These agreements have since then proceeded to build on previous progress made on previous restrictions placed on hydrocarbon and energy investment.

Argentina has failed to take action to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Christopher Villegas-Cbo

Australia: +1

Australia has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 8 October 2014, Australia's Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (Efic) will be refocused to increase its capacity to finance small and medium-sized businesses seeking to capitalize on global trade opportunities.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁹ Employment Plan 2014 Argentina, G20 (Cancún) December 2014. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_argentina-.pdf

¹⁷⁰ Why Investors Shouldn't Overlook Argentina's Energy Reforms, Oil Price 30 October 2014. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://oilprice.com/Energy/Energy-General/Why-Investors-Shouldnt-Overlook-Argentinas-Energy-Reforms.html>

¹⁷¹ Argentina Moves Towards Marriage of Convenience with China, IPS News (Buenos Aires) 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2015/02/argentina-moves-towards-marriage-of-convenience-with-china/>

¹⁷² Efics Renewed Focus on SMEs to Boost Jobs and Growth, Australian Government (Canberra) 9 October 2014. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://www.efic.gov.au/news-room/latest-news/2014/october/efics-renewed-focus-on-smes-to-boost-jobs-and-growth/>

On 6 December 2014, Government Affairs and Public Policy released a report entitled “A Deregulation Plan for Australian SMEs.” This report contributes to ongoing efforts by the Australian government to make financing for SMEs more accessible.¹⁷³

On 4 February 2015, the NSW government launched Australia’s first Social Impact Investment Policy as part of a bold new approach to providing long-term social and economic benefits.¹⁷⁴

Australia has taken steps to support long-term financing particularly for SMEs. Thus, Australia is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Jose Isla

Brazil: –1

Brazil has not complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 17 February 2015, Brazilian minister of communication, Mr. Ricardo Berzoini announced the creation of synergies between the public and private sector regarding broadband, he said with the intention to “create an environment where companies can invest larger sums of money and get medium and long-term paybacks.”¹⁷⁵

On 24 February 2015, Moody’s cut the rating of Petrobras, a semi-public multinational energy corporation, to Ba2, two levels below investment grade, reflecting concerns over ongoing corruption scandals and liquidity pressures. This downgrade is a red flag, since most large institutional investors are only able to put money into investment grade securities.¹⁷⁶

On 26 February 2015, the Presidential Palace announced an immediate squeeze on federal spending until the end of April, which effects government work projects such as the Belo Monte hydroelectric dam.¹⁷⁷

Brazil has taken no actions to facilitate long-term investment from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Jose Isla

Canada: +1

Canada has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

¹⁷³ Deregulation Plan for Australian SMEs, Australian Government Affairs and Public Policy (Canberra) December 2014. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://business.nab.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/nabs-deregulation-plan-for-australian-smes-december-2014-pdf.pdf>

¹⁷⁴ NSW Delivers Australia’s First Social Impact Investment Policy, Media Release, Australian Government (Canberra) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases-premier/nsw-delivers-australias-first-social-impact-investment-policy>

¹⁷⁵ Brazilian government promises major broadband investment, ZD Net 17 February 2015. Date of Access: February 26, 2015. <http://www.zdnet.com/article/brazilian-government-promises-major-broadband-investment/>

¹⁷⁶ Investment atmosphere in Brazil touched by scandal, Bloomberg 24 February 2015. Date of Access: February 26, 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-25/petrobras-downgraded-to-junk-by-moody-s-amid-graft-probe>

¹⁷⁷ Brazil Government Starts Making Cuts, Raise Taxes, Forbes 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kenrapoza/2015/02/27/brazil-government-starts-making-cuts-raises-taxes/>

On 18 November 2014, Canadian Finance Minister Joe Oliver announced the government of Canada's investment in Kensington Venture Fund as the next step in the government of Canada's Venture Capital Action Plan (VCAP). The government of Canada would contribute CAD53 million alongside CAD107 million from institutional, corporate, and individual investors.¹⁷⁸

On 22 January 2015, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the Canadian government's intent to make changes to the Canada Small Business Financing Program to allow more small businesses to apply and will make larger loans available for small business to purchase or improve their land or building.¹⁷⁹

On 30 January 2015, Statistics Canada announced that a comprehensive survey on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) would be released in fall 2015. This survey would provide concrete data in identifying the needs of SMEs and ultimately in "improving the financing and growth of SMEs" in Canada.¹⁸⁰

On 3 February 2015, a spokesperson for Canada's minister of transport confirmed that the government of Canada was leading a major public-private partnership in the construction of the new USD3.65 billion bridge between Windsor and Detroit.¹⁸¹

On 6 February 2015, the government of Canada publicly promoted Canada's stable investment climate. It highlighted that Canada's overall tax on new business investment was the lowest of all G7 members at 17%. This tax rate also fell below the OECD average of 20.2%.¹⁸²

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, Canada's Small Business Job Credit will take effect. This measure will apply to "EI premiums paid by small businesses" and is "expected to save small employers more than [CAD]550 million over 2015 and 2016."¹⁸³

During the compliance period, Canada has taken steps to facilitate long-term financing particularly for SMEs. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elise Belzil

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 8 November 2014, President Xi announced the establishment of the Silk Road Fund endowed with USD40 billion, jointly sponsored by official foreign exchange reserves, China Investment

¹⁷⁸ Government of Canada Helps to Create Jobs and Growth With Investment in New Venture Capital Fund of Funds, Department of Finance, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 10 March 2015.

<http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/14-163-eng.asp>

¹⁷⁹ <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/01/22/pm-announces-improved-access-financing-canadian-small-businesses>

¹⁸⁰ Survey on Financing and Growth of Small and Medium Enterprises, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p2SV.pl?Function=getSurvey&SDDS=2941>

¹⁸¹ US, Canada will tap private sector funds to build customs plaza, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 3 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-canada-will-tap-private-sector-funds-to-build-customs-plaza-1423014158>.

¹⁸² Why Invest in Canada?, The Canadian Trade Commissioner Service (Ottawa) 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/investors-investisseurs/avantage-avantage/avantage-avantage.aspx?lang=eng>.

¹⁸³ Backgrounder: The Small Business Job Credit, Department of Finance (Ottawa) 11 September 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.fin.gc.ca/n14/data/14-120_1-eng.asp.

Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of China, and the China Development Bank. The fund will make medium- and long-term investment in the fields of infrastructure, resource development, and industrial and financial cooperation with a focus on providing financing and investment services along the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road.¹⁸⁴

On 11 December 2014, leaders in China concluded the three-day Central Economic Work Conference.¹⁸⁵ The conference recognized the importance of emerging industries, service industry, and small and micro businesses.¹⁸⁶

On 23 January 2015, the People's Bank of China (PBC) released the "Notice on Improving the Policy on Credit Policy Supporting Central Bank Lending to Support the Lending to the Agricultural Sector, Rural Areas and Farmers, and Small and Micro Enterprises." The purpose of the notice is to "improve the terms and conditions of agro-supporting and small and micro enterprises supporting central bank lending, to clarify the quantitative and interest rate standards of financial institutions providing agricultural-related and small and micro enterprise loans with funds provided by agro-supporting and small and micro enterprises supporting central bank loans, and to enhance assessment and monitoring of the effect of central bank lending."¹⁸⁷ As a result, the quota of credit policy supporting central bank lending is increased by RMB30 billion for small and micro enterprise financing.¹⁸⁸

On 5 February 2015, the PBC announced a decision to cut the renminbi deposit required reserve ratio for financial institutions by 0.5%. In addition, the PBC cut the reserve ratio for city commercial banks and non-country level rural commercial banks that have met the reduction by an additional 0.5% and cut the required reserve ratio for the Agricultural Development Bank of China by 4%, which will—in part—enhance the capacity of financial institutions to support small and micro enterprises.¹⁸⁹

On 25 February 2015, the State Council extended tax break policies to micro and small businesses. From 2015 to 2017, the annual taxable income threshold for companies eligible for 50% corporate tax cuts will increase from RMB100,000 to RMB200,000. In addition, the council levied the taxes on investment earnings from non-monetary assets in stages, rather than a one-off collection. Finally, the

¹⁸⁴ The Silk Road Fund Enters into Operation, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/955/2015/20150226140450640788553/20150226140450640788553_.html.

¹⁸⁵ Highlights of China's Central Economic Work Conference, Xinhua Net News 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2014. http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-12/11/c_133848763.htm.

¹⁸⁶ 9 Interpretations of China's Central Economic Work Conference in 2014, CCTV.com 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://english.cntv.cn/2014/12/12/ARTI1418377771846609.shtml>.

¹⁸⁷ The PBC Increases Quota of Credit Policy Supporting Central Bank Lending to Support Agro-Supporting Loans and Lending to Small and Micro Enterprises, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/955/2015/20150123152427002639977/20150123152427002639977_.html.

¹⁸⁸ The PBC Increases Quota of Credit Policy Supporting Central Bank Lending to Support Agro-Supporting Loans and Lending to Small and Micro Enterprises, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/955/2015/20150123152427002639977/20150123152427002639977_.html.

¹⁸⁹ PBC Decides to Cut Required Reserve Ratio for All Financial Institutions and to Provide Targeted Required Reserve Ratio Cut for Selected Institutions, People's Bank of China (Beijing) 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://www.pbc.gov.cn/publish/english/955/2015/20150205151908946265667/20150205151908946265667_.html.

unemployment insurance rate will be reduced from 3% to 2%, which will potentially save more than RMB40 billion for businesses and employees annually.¹⁹⁰

On 28 February 2015, the PBC cut the loan interest rate and the deposit interest rate to 5.35% and 2.5% respectively.¹⁹¹ This followed the cuts on 22 November 2014, which reduced RMB benchmark loan interest rate from 6% to 5.6% and cut deposit interest rate for financial institutions from 3% to 2.75%.¹⁹² These interest rate cuts sought to “lower social financing costs and provide a modest monetary environment to facilitate economic restructuring.”¹⁹³

China has taken measures to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, China is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Wenjie (Shirley) Wu

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 24 October 2014, the government published a report entitled “Effort Financier de L’État en Faveur des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises” attached to the 2015 Budget Bill. The report commented on the state of SME financing in France.¹⁹⁴

In January 2015, President François Hollande announced a plan to “lower taxes and spur employment.” This series of tax cuts for businesses is called the “Responsibility Pact.”¹⁹⁵ In the pact, President Hollande promised to “ease payroll taxes by up to [EUR]40 billion by 2017 if businesses would hire more workers.”¹⁹⁶

On 19 February 2015, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls pushed through a new pro-business bill through parliament, by decree. This bill aims to “free up France’s stringent labour rules to invigorate hiring and investment.”¹⁹⁷ The bill also includes over “200 deregulatory measures.”¹⁹⁸

¹⁹⁰ China pledges stronger fiscal policy to address slowdown, CCTV.com 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://english.cntv.cn/2015/02/25/ARTI1424872073420990.shtml>.

¹⁹¹ China cuts interest rates to lower financing costs, CCTV.com 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://english.cntv.cn/2015/02/28/ARTI1425122192578487.shtml>.

¹⁹² PBC Decides to Cut RMB Benchmark Loan and Deposit Interest Rates and Expand Interest Rate Floating Range, the People’s Bank of China 22 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://www.pbc.gov.cn/image_public/UserFiles/english/upload/File/PBCDecidestoCutRMBBenchmarkLoanandDepositRates.pdf.

¹⁹³ China cuts interest rates to lower financing costs, CCTV.com 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://english.cntv.cn/2015/02/28/ARTI1425122192578487.shtml>.

¹⁹⁴ Effort Financier de L’état en Faveur des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, Government of France (Paris) 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. http://www.performance-publique.budget.gouv.fr/sites/performance_publique/files/farandole/ressources/2015/pap/pdf/jaunes/jaune2015_PME.pdf

¹⁹⁵ Boost for France as jobless figures fall, The Local (Paris) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.thelocal.fr/20150226/boost-for-france-as-jobless-figures-fall>.

¹⁹⁶ French Government survives no confidence vote, France 24 (Paris) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.france24.com/en/20150219-valls-macron-france-economic-reform-no-confidence-vote-national-assembly/>.

¹⁹⁷ French PM forces pro-business bill through Parliament, France 24 (Paris) 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.france24.com/en/20150217-france-macron-bill-pro-business/>.

France has taken actions to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, but not particularly for SMEs. Thus, France is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Elise Belzil

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 11 November 2014, the German government announced reductions in bureaucratic influence for small to medium-sized enterprises in their Annual Financial Report. Their 21 initiatives included change on “tax and accounting law, on relief for start-ups and young entrepreneurs, and on reducing obligations to provide statistics and information ... [and] the principle of ‘one in, one out’ by 30 June 2015, so that in future any new regulations are balanced by a pruning of the same amount of bureaucracy.”¹⁹⁹

On 25 November 2014, Germany hosted the first European Family Business Summit.²⁰⁰ The Summit focused on “global challenges faced by companies in Germany and Europe.”²⁰¹ The Stability and Growth Pact fell within this focus, and it stressed growth through “sound budgetary management when pro-competitive structural reforms are carried out.”²⁰²

On 25 November 2014, German Chancellor Angela Merkel referred to funds set aside in the German budget for new investments, specifying EUR7 billion at the moment with EUR10 billion euros added by the end of 2018.²⁰³

On 17 December 2014, Germany proposed 58 projects worth EUR89 billion euros for infrastructure projects in “digital infrastructure, energy, transport, social infrastructure, and the environment.”²⁰⁴ Germany has consistently referred to investment in digital infrastructure as a form of investment for

¹⁹⁸ Events throw France’s Hollande a lifebuoy, BBC News (Paris) 14 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-eu-31461815>.

¹⁹⁹ 2015 Annual Economic Report: Investing in Germany and Europe’s future, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

<http://www.bmwi.de/English/Redaktion/Pdf/jahreswirtschaftsbericht-2015-englische-zusammenfassung,property=pdf,bereich=bmwi2012,sprache=en,rwb=true.pdf>

²⁰⁰ Investing in Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 25 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/11_en/2014-11-25-eu-familienunternehmer_en.html?nn=709674

²⁰¹ Investing in Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 25 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/11_en/2014-11-25-eu-familienunternehmer_en.html?nn=709674

²⁰² Investing in Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 25 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/11_en/2014-11-25-eu-familienunternehmer_en.html?nn=709674

²⁰³ Investing in Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 25 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/11_en/2014-11-25-eu-familienunternehmer_en.html?nn=709674

²⁰⁴ Investment fund to come, The Federal Government (Berlin) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015.

<http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Reiseberichte/2014/2014-12-17-er-bruessel-dezember.html?nn=709674>

the operation of small to medium-sized enterprises,²⁰⁵ emphasizing the importance of the Digital Agenda 2014-2017 as an initiative to further investment opportunities.²⁰⁶

On 15 February 2015, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy announced plans to establish funds from public-private partnerships in which cross-community construction projects could be bundled.”²⁰⁷ According to Transport Minister Alexander Dobrindt, “We want a state organisation that can make use of private financing. Public-private construction partnerships are more economic...projects in the magnitude of EUR15 billion.”²⁰⁸

During the compliance period, Germany has taken actions to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Germany is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Eimi Harris

India: +1

India has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 28 February 2015, in the Union Budget, the Indian government and the Ministry of Finance have created the “Make in India” initiative; which is allocating INR20,000 to the SME sector (up from the INR10,000 in 2014).²⁰⁹ The initiative eases regulations so that it is easy for people to invest and become involved in the SME industry as well as providing access to cheap credit, use of technology and a stringent policy framework.²¹⁰

On 1 March 2015, the Indian government announced it would set up the Micro Units Development Refinance Agency Bank “to finance the setting up of small and micro units and thereby encourage entrepreneurship among SC/STs [scheduled castes/scheduled tribes] and OBCs [other backward classes].”²¹¹ The bank would have a corpus of INR20,000 and a credit guarantee corpus of INR3,000.

²⁰⁵ Investing in Germany, The Federal Government (Berlin) 25 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/11_en/2014-11-25-eu-familienunternehmer_en.html?nn=709674

²⁰⁶ 2015 Annual Economic Report: Investing in Germany and Europe’s future, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 16 February 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/English/Redaktion/Pdf/jahreswirtschaftsbericht-2015-englische-zusammenfassung,property=pdf,bereich=bmwi2012,sprache=en,rwb=true.pdf>

²⁰⁷ Germany eyes part-privatization for infrastructure projects - paper, Euronews (Berlin) 15 February 2015. Date of Access: 16 February 2015. <http://www.euronews.com/business-newswires/2939756-germany-eyes-part-privatisation-for-infrastructure-projects-paper/>

²⁰⁸ Germany eyes part-privatization for infrastructure projects - paper, Euronews (Berlin) 15 February 2015. Date of Access: 16 February 2015. <http://www.euronews.com/business-newswires/2939756-germany-eyes-part-privatisation-for-infrastructure-projects-paper/>

²⁰⁹ Government allocates 20,000 Rupees to SMC sector, Money Control (New Delhi) 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/economy/union-budget-2015-govt-allocates-rs-20000-cr-to-boost-smes-via-mudra-bank_1315834.html

²¹⁰ Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Reserve Bank of India (New Delhi) 26 September 2013. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.rbi.org.in/commonman/english/scripts/FAQs.aspx?Id=966>

²¹¹ Banking on Mudra for SMEs, The Financial Express (New Delhi) 1 March 2015. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. <http://indianexpress.com/article/business/budget/banking-on-mudra-for-smes/>

India has taken action to facilitate long-term financing particularly for SMEs. Thus, India is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Lukas Weese

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 17 November 2014, Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced plans to raise the government-subsidized petrol price by more than 30%. Subsidies for imported fuel currently cost 13% of the government's budget. Widodo said that savings from cutting the petrol subsidy could be spent on key infrastructure projects such as roads and ports.²¹²

On 21 November 2014, President Joko Widodo announced plans to change the body of the Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM) to improve and facilitate services for investors to invest more in Indonesia.²¹³

On 7 December 2014, Indonesian President Joko Widodo outlined general plans to lower the country's investment barriers and streamline the bureaucracy. Widodo said he had directed government officials to investigate, on a case-by-case basis, incentives such as offers of tax holidays to attract investment.²¹⁴

On 15 January 2015, Indonesia's Investment and Coordinating Board piloted a one-stop business licensing service to reducing administrative burdens and simplifying bureaucratic procedures.²¹⁵

Indonesia has taken measures to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, but not particularly for SMEs. Thus, Indonesia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: James Flynn

Italy: +1

Italy has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 14 October 2014, a *Deutsche Bank Research* found that SME financing has increased, especially for micro enterprises.²¹⁶ Italy has created financial instruments such as minibonds, which pool together SME bonds and sell them into capital markets.²¹⁷

²¹² Joko Widodo raises Indonesia's subsidised petrol price, Financial Times 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/f8b84820-6e73-11e4-afe5-00144feabdc0.html>

²¹³ Jokowi Akan Rombak Total BKPM, CNN Indonesia (Jakarta) 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. <http://www.cnnindonesia.com/ekonomi/20141121065740-92-12908/jokowi-akan-rombak-total-bkpm/>

²¹⁴ Indonesian President Joko Widodo Pledges to Cut Investment Barriers, Wall Street Journal 7 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/indonesian-leader-joko-widodo-pledges-to-cut-investment-barriers-1417988251#livefyre-comment>

²¹⁵ Indonesia Looks to Foreign Investment to Boost Economy, ASEAN Briefing 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/2015/01/19/indonesia-looks-foreign-investment-boost-economy.html>

²¹⁶ SME Financing in the Euro Area, Deutsche Bank Research (Frankfurt) 14 October 2014. Date of Access: February 25, 2015. https://www.dbresearch.com/PROD/DBR_INTERNET_EN-PROD/PROD000000000344173/SME+financing+in+the+euro+area%3A+New+solutions+to+an+old+problem.PDF

On 7 January 2015, reports indicated that guaranteed credit and support to innovative small- and medium-sized businesses were going to be the two pillars of the government's new economic growth plan. The bill will include the new reforms of the state's SME Guarantee Fund. The reforms included a packet of deregulation and aid for competitive small business, specific regulations about alternative sources of funding, and a review of the rules aimed to attract foreign capital.²¹⁸

On 9 February 2015, the Italian Economy Minister Pier Carlo Padoan called for Europe to take bolder steps in "boosting investment and [taking] policy steps that encourage private sector spending particularly in infrastructure."²¹⁹

On 12 February 2015, the Italian government amended a measure that allowed listed companies to introduce "loyalty shares." The amendment stated that companies must have a two-thirds majority to introduce the mechanism, the result being that minority investors are more likely to get a say. This is a positive sign for institutional investors.²²⁰

Italy has taken action to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Lukas Weese

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 31 October 2014, the Government Pension Investment Fund (GPIF) announced policy changes designed to boost domestic investment and improve returns. Specifically, the GPIF reduced the basic asset allocation target for domestic bonds from 60% to 35% and increased the domestic stocks allocation from 12% to 25%. In addition, the allocation to foreign bonds and foreign stocks has increased to 15% and 25% respectively.

On 9 January 2015, the Prime Minister's cabinet endorsed a JPY3.12 trillion package to revive domestic demand. Of this package, JPY247.1 billion will be used to support farmers, small firms and transport companies.²²¹

On 4 February 2015, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) developed guidelines for small and medium-sized service businesses to improve the productivity. The guidelines outline eight

²¹⁷ Italian SMEs bypass banks with securitization product, Reuters (New York) 9 July 2014. Date of Access: February 25, 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/07/09/idUSL6N0PJ47920140709>

²¹⁸ A preview of the new "industrial compact" for SMEs, Italy 24 (Rome) 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015.

<http://www.italy24.ilsole24ore.com/art/government-policies/2015-01-06/cabinet-ready-to-introduce-new-guaranteed-credit-to-support-smes-growth--125620.php?uuiid=ABC9kQZC>

²¹⁹ Italy's Padoan says Europe should be bolder in boosting investments, Reuters Canada 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015.

<http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0LDOTE20150209>

²²⁰ Italian government backtracks loyalty shares, Campden FB 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015.

<http://www.campdenfb.com/article/italian-government-back-tracks-loyalty-shares>

²²¹ Cabinet rubber stamps JPY3.12 trillion extra budget, the Japan Times (Tokyo) 10 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/01/10/business/economy-business/cabinet-rubber-stamps-%C2%A53-12-trillion-extra-budget/#.VPPHf_nF9sj.

approaches for value-creation and innovation, as well as two approaches for improving efficiency. In addition, SMEs that follow these guidelines are eligible for financial support from METI.²²²

Japan has taken steps to support long-term financing from institution investors by reforming the GPIF and particularly for SMEs through numerous initiatives. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Wenjie (Shirley) Wu

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 17 November 2014, the Financial Supervisory Service (FSS) announced a new lending model for SMEs based on long-term relationships from 24 November 2014 onwards. The model “involves extending long-term loans, making equity investment and offering consulting services based on the general assessment of qualitative information” related to SMEs’ operations by banks, and would be pushed for adoption by banks by the FSS.²²³

On 22 December 2014, the Ministry of Finance unveiled its strategic policy plans for 2015, centred on structural reforms to improve Korea’s economy. These included policies to permit creation of large investment funds; reform financial regulation; reform foreign exchange rules; strengthen shareholder rights and raise dividend payments; establish a KRW30 trillion investment scheme and expand research and development tax breaks for SMEs; reduce unfair trading practices that discourage foreign investment; and build SME competitiveness through incentives and tax benefits.²²⁴

On 28 December 2014, the government announced removal of “114 administrative rules cited by local companies for hindering businesses,” with all changes to be completed within the first half of 2015 in order to spur business development.²²⁵

On 4 January 2015, the government announced it would provide a two-year extension for the existing tax deduction for companies purchasing industrial land, or newly establishing or expanding industrial plants in order to encourage companies to expand and spur investment.²²⁶

²²² METI has Developed Guidelines for Small and Medium-sized Service Businesses to Improve the Productivity, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.
http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0204_01.html.

²²³ Relationship-Based Lending to SMEs, Financial Supervisory Service (Seoul) 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.
<http://english.fss.or.kr/fss/en/media/release/view.jsp?bbsid=1289277491315&category=null&idx=1416187369095&num=914&color=green>

²²⁴ 2015 economic policy - gist, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.
<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/business/2014/12/19/17/0502000000AEN20141219000900320F.html>

²²⁵ Gov't to ax red tape hampering businesses, Invest Korea (Seoul) 31 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.
http://www.investkorea.org/ikwork/iko/eng/cont/contents.jsp?code=102060101&no=608300001&url_info=bbs_read.jsp&bno=412310003&sort_num=1643&l_unit=90202&m_unit=&s_unit=

²²⁶ 2-Yr Extension for Tax Deduction on Industrial Complexes, Invest Korea (Seoul) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.
http://www.investkorea.org/ikwork/iko/eng/cont/contents.jsp?code=102060101&no=608300001&url_info=bbs_read.jsp&bno=501150007&sort_num=1655&l_unit=90202&m_unit=&s_unit=

On 7 January 2015, President Park Geun-hye reaffirmed the government's previously stated commitment to reform Korea's past export-oriented economic model based on large conglomerates. In addition to public sector reforms and policies targeting innovation, the government aims to target SMEs to boost growth and domestic demand, "[pledging] particular support to five integral services sectors—namely health and medical care, tourism, finance, education and software."²²⁷

On 19 January 2015, the government announced it would invest KRW100 trillion in new growth industries, providing technology financing through the establishment of 'finance zones' for creative economy innovation centres to support innovative start-ups and SMEs nationwide.²²⁸

On 28 January 2015, the government-run Korean Development Bank (KDB) announced plans to extend KRW63 trillion to domestic companies in 2015 to foster investment and to support the government's stimulus drive and economic policies. KRW34.9 trillion will support SMEs, with an additional KRW10.5 trillion of the total planned to support financing of venture firms and start-ups. In addition, KDB aims to invest KRW15 trillion to spur investment in (long-term) major infrastructure projects, as well as technology companies "with high growth potential."²²⁹

On 29 January 2015, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries announced the 2015 plan to "expand financial investment in core infrastructure, including (shipping) ports and fishing ports," by investing KRW1.3 trillion in port infrastructure facilities. As well, the ministry plans to "attract private investment of KRW3 trillion for offshore plants and ship repair by 2020."²³⁰

Korea has made efforts to facilitate long-term financing by improving market and regulatory conditions for institutional investors and spurring investment opportunities, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Korea is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Adam Barrett

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 2 December 2014, the Business Coordinating Council (CCE) proposed that the federal government take steps to accelerate economic recovery, since Mexico's economic growth has been moderate.²³¹

²²⁷ Government emphasizes role of private sector in GDP growth, Economist Intelligence Unit (London) 14 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://country.eiu.com/article.aspx?articleid=721424056&Country=South%20Korea&topic=Economy>

²²⁸ Govt. Invests KRW 100 Tn in New Growth Industries, Invest Korea (Seoul) 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.investkorea.org/ikwork/iko/eng/cont/contents.jsp?code=102060101&no=608300001&url_info=bbs_read.jsp&bno=501190002&sort_num=1658&l_unit=90202&m_unit=&s_unit=

²²⁹ State-run lender KDB eyes 63 tln won in financing for local firms this year, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/news/2015/01/28/63/0200000000AEN20150128005100320F.html>

²³⁰ Govt. Expands Private Investment in Port Infrastructure Facilities, Invest Korea (Seoul) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.investkorea.org/ikwork/iko/eng/cont/contents.jsp?code=102060101&no=608300001&url_info=bbs_read.jsp&bno=502040004&sort_num=1670&l_unit=90202&m_unit=&s_unit=

²³¹ Proyecto reformador requiere políticas de corto plazo: CCE, Eleconomista 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 15 March 2014. <http://eleconomista.com.mx/industrias/2014/12/02/proyecto-reformador-requiere-politicas-corto-plazo-cce>

On 25 February 2015, the parliamentary group in the Congress of Deputies presented a draft resolution to the debate on the State of the Nation that urges the government to continue to improve and diversify funding channels for enterprises, especially for SMEs.²³²

Mexico has failed to take action to facilitate long-term investment from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Christopher Villegas-Cho

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on investment.

On 25 March 2015, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev ordered to introduce a draft law on special tax regimes for small business to the State Duma. The law is aimed at stimulating the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by reducing financial and administrative costs through establishing special tax regimes at the level of regions and municipalities.²³³

On 28 March 2015, Medvedev signed an executive order on allocation of subsidies to the regions to support small and medium business in 2015. Subsidies of RUB16.9 billion will be granted to the subjects of the Russian Federation to facilitate the creation of new and support of existing innovative SMEs.²³⁴

On 28 April 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin instructed the government to draft an executive order on the creation of a single institution responsible for the development of SMEs in Russia on the basis of the Agency for Credit Guarantees and Russian Bank for Small and Medium Business Support. The new institution will “provide financial, legal, methodological and other support to small and medium-sized businesses.”²³⁵

During the compliance period Russia has taken steps to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors that address SMEs’ financial needs. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has not complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 25 February 2015, Bloomberg reported lending under Saudi Arabia’s SME Loan Guarantee Program, known as Kafalah, plunged 76% to SAR572 million last year as banks tightened rules

²³² Debate nación. el pp pide al gobierno mejorar la financiación a pymes y hacer más flexible el acceso al crédito 15 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 March 2015.

<http://www.economista.es/economia/noticias/6506473/02/15/Debate-nacion-el-pp-pide-al-gobierno-mejorar-la-financiacion-a-pymes-y-hacer-mas-flexible-el-acceso-al-credito.html#.Kku8mYOiWImY7eF>

²³³ A draft law on special tax regimes for small business was introduced to the State Duma, Federal Web Portal for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises 27 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015.

<http://en.smb.gov.ru/sme/news/260.html>.

²³⁴ Government of the Russian Federation allocated nearly 17 billion rubles to support small business, Federal Web Portal for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises 3 April 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015.

<http://en.smb.gov.ru/sme/news/262.html>.

²³⁵ Instructions following State Council meeting, President of Russia 28 April 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015.

<http://en.kremlin.ru/events/state-council/49354>.

(according to data from the Saudi Industrial Development Fund). Al-Hazmi, co-founder of Riyadh-based Supply & Logistics Solutions stated that “banks are not lending to any start-ups without providing annual financial statements audited by licensed entities in Saudi Arabia” The current arrangement makes it difficult for small and medium enterprises to receive public financing.²³⁶

Saudi Arabia has not taken action to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, Saudi Arabia is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Mason Nowak

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 4 November 2014, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released the 12th report on G20 policy and investment-related measures. This report covered the period between 16 May 2014 and 15 October 2014. South Africa did not report investment policy measures related or unrelated to foreign direct investment during this period.²³⁷

On 10 February 2015, Mineral Resource Minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi announced that South Africa is committed to expanding its mining industry. “South Africa is ready for investment,” Ramatlhodi told the conference. “We are leaving no stone unturned in providing a stable environment for investment.”²³⁸

On 13 February 2015, President Jacob Zuma delivered the State of the Nation Address. Zuma said, “To prevent corruption and promote ethical governance, in December I signed into law the Public Administration and Management Act which among others prohibits public servants from doing business with the State.” Zuma said government has in place seven anti-corruption institutions and 17 pieces of legislation that are intended to combat corruption.²³⁹

On 25 February 2015, South African Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene told Parliament during his 2015 budget speech that a new tax regime has been proposed for businesses with a turnover below ZAR1 million a year. Qualifying businesses with a turnover of less than ZAR335,000 a year will pay no tax. The maximum tax rate has also been reduced from 6% to 3%.²⁴⁰

South Africa has taken actions to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, but not particularly for SMEs. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of 0.

²³⁶ Saudi Banks Pull Welcome Mat From Startups Seeking Loans, Bloomberg, 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-26/saudi-banks-pull-welcome-mat-for-smes-seeking-loans-arab-credit>

²³⁷ UNCTAD-OECD Twelfth Report on G20 Investment Measures, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Geneva) 4 November 2014, Access Date: 20 February 2015. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/unctad_oecd2014d12_en.pdf

²³⁸ South Africa is ready for investment, says Ramatlhodi, South Africa Info (Cape Town) 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.southafrica.info/news/mining-indaba-100215.htm#VPILUUI-A6U>

²³⁹ We will move forward, Zuma tells South Africa, South Africa Info (Cape Town) 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.southafrica.info/news/sona-130215.htm#VPILbpl-A6U#ixzz3T4TeKqdh>

²⁴⁰ Budget 2015: People’s Guide, National Treasury (Cape Town) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov.za/documents/national%20budget/2015/guides/2015%20People's%20Guide%20-%20English.pdf>

Turkey: +1

Turkey has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Between 15-16 December 2014, Turkey hosted the European Business Angels Investment Forum, organized by the European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds and Early Stage Market Players (EBAN).²⁴¹ The Forum brings together SMEs, private institutions and government bodies to discuss SMEs' access to funds.

On 30 January 2015, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu announced initiatives to support SMEs, including the provision of TRY150,000 to each business to help expand overseas. Additionally, the Turkish SME Development Agency (KOSGEB) will increase incentives for research and development for SMEs by 50%.²⁴²

During the compliance period, Turkey took actions to facilitate long-term financing particularly for SMEs. Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Eimi Harris

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 21 November 2014, the UK hosted the UK Investment Summit 2014, an international summit in Wales bringing together global investors, business leaders, and senior government officials to showcase UK investment opportunities.²⁴³

On 2 December 2014, the Bank of England and Her Majesty's Treasury jointly announced a one-year extension for the ongoing Funding for Lending Scheme, which subsidizes lending to SMEs by institutional lenders. The scheme supports inexpensive lending to SMEs by offsetting the costs of lending and further incentivizes lending by allowing participants to draw GBP5 for every GBP1 lent to SMEs for business development.²⁴⁴

On 3 December 2014, HM Treasury unveiled the Autumn Statement, a comprehensive statement of the implementation of existing economic policies and an outline of planned policies. The statement indicated that the government had success in past policies, including the reduction of tax and regulatory burdens for businesses, increased infrastructure investment and attracting investment to the UK. The statement indicated planned policies to work with the private sector on its National Infrastructure Plan 2014 for long-term infrastructure investment; extend the doubling of the Small

²⁴¹ European Business Angels Investment Forum to be held in Turkey this year, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 15 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.dailysabah.com/money/2014/12/15/european-business-angels-investment-forum-to-be-held-in-turkey-this-year>

²⁴² Government issues five pieces of good news to SMEs, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.dailysabah.com/money/2015/01/30/govt-issues-five-pieces-of-good-news-to-smes>

²⁴³ UK Investment Summit Wales 2014, UK Trade & Investment (London) 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-investment-summit-2014>

²⁴⁴ Funding for Lending Scheme: Bank of England and HM Treasury announce extension, HM Treasury (London) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/funding-for-lending-scheme-bank-of-england-and-hm-treasury-announce-extension>

Business (Tax) Rate Relief program to April 2016; support venture capital through the GBP400 million British Business Bank Enterprise Capital Funds Programme; and take measures to improve access to finance (particularly for SMEs) and encourage innovative financial products.²⁴⁵ While this only outlines intended, not implemented, policies so far it reflects a commitment for the government to make pro-investment policies.

On 10 February 2015, Prime Minister David Cameron announced the “Help to Grow” pilot scheme by the British Business Bank. The GBP100 million scheme aims to allow fast-growing SMEs realize their potential by providing growth financing through private sector delivery partners.²⁴⁶

On 12 February 2015, the Infrastructure Act became law. The act includes various provisions targeting infrastructure investment in the UK, including the creation of Highways England, a government-owned company for roadway development with long-term funding, and programs to give local people the right to buy a stake in renewable energy projects, and reducing regulation for nationally significant infrastructure projects to boost investment.

On 18 February 2015, Trade Minister Lord Livingston announced that the government would sign five-year contracts with private, locally based providers to deliver export support to businesses to enable more businesses to export, in particular SMEs.²⁴⁷

On 25 February 2015, the government announced achievement of the goal to direct 25% of procurement spending to SMEs, reaching 26.1% or GBP11.4 billion.

On 26 February 2015, the Public Procurement Regulations 2015 came into force as law, enacting policies making government procurement more transparent and accessible, particularly for SMEs.^{248,249}

The UK has made efforts to facilitate long-term financing by improving market and regulatory conditions for institutional investors, particularly for SMEs. Thus, the UK is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Adam Barrett

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 18 November 2014, the Obama administration announced registration opened for the 2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit, to take place from 23-25 March 2015. The summit aims to “bring

²⁴⁵ Autumn Statement: documents, HM Treasury (London) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/autumn-statement-documents>

²⁴⁶ Prime Minister announces British Business Bank ‘HELP TO GROW’ scheme, British Business Bank (London) 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://british-business-bank.co.uk/prime-minister-announces-british-business-bank-help-to-grow-scheme/>

²⁴⁷ Long term export support confirmed for small and medium sized firms, UK Trade & Investment (London) 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/long-term-export-support-confirmed-for-small-and-medium-sized-firms>

²⁴⁸ Government spends £11.4 billion with SMEs, Cabinet Office (London) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-spends-114-billion-with-smes>

²⁴⁹ Procurement Policy Note 03/15: reforms to make public procurement more accessible to SMEs, Cabinet Office (London) 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/procurement-policy-note-0315-reforms-to-make-public-procurement-more-accessible-to-smes>

together investors from all over the world, economic development organizations from every corner of the United States, high-level government officials, and others ... to facilitate investment in the United States.”²⁵⁰

On 16 January 2015, the Obama administration announced an expansion of the Build America Investment Initiative to increase long-term infrastructure investment in the US. The expansion includes: the creation of a new Water Finance Center at the Environmental Protection Agency, a new Rural Opportunity Investment Initiative run through the Department of Agriculture, the creation of Qualified Public Infrastructure Bonds to leverage private capital, the creation of various infrastructure projects by the Department of Transportation, and steps to attract investment through the SelectUSA investment program.²⁵¹

On 27 January 2015, the Small Business Administration (SBA) announced that its Impact Investment Fund of the Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program had tripled over the past year. The SBA “began 2014 with two Impact SBICs managing USD182 million and ended the year with six Impact SBICs collectively managing between USD442 million and USD572 million in total assets depending on the amount of credit guarantees approved and employed.” Moreover, by making the Impact Investment Fund a permanent feature of the SBIC program in the latter part of the year and by lifting existing restrictions on member institutions and membership requirements, it became more effective.²⁵²

On 2 February 2015, the Department of the Treasury released its Tax Revenue Proposals for Fiscal Year 2016, which included various provisions aimed at: simplifying the Tax Code and reducing evasion, providing tax relief and simplification for small businesses, providing incentives in areas such as manufacturing and research, providing incentives for investment in infrastructure, and improving and streamlining tax administration.²⁵³

On 3 February 2015, the SBA expanded its American Supplier Initiative, announcing ‘matchmaking events’ to provide small businesses with tools and resources to allow them to connect with federal and commercial supply chain opportunities. The initiative aims to address four areas in which SMEs often need help to become suppliers in the private sector: “access to mentorship and counselling services, increased market and revenue opportunities, ready sources of capital to fund their growth, and a highly skilled workforce.”²⁵⁴

²⁵⁰ U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker Opens Registration For 2015 SelectUSA Investment Summit, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2014/11/18/us-commerce-secretary-penny-pritzker-opens-registration-2015-selectus>

²⁵¹ FACT SHEET: Increasing Investment in U.S. Roads, Ports and Drinking Water Systems Through Innovative Financing, White House Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/16/fact-sheet-increasing-investment-us-roads-ports-and-drinking-water-systems>

²⁵² Impact Investment Fund Grows Threefold, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 27 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/content/impact-investment-fund-grows-threefold>

²⁵³ FACT SHEET: Administration's FY2016 Budget Tax Proposals, Department of the Treasury (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/jl9754.aspx>

²⁵⁴ SBA Announces Expansion of American Supplier Initiative with Matchmaking Events to be held throughout 2015, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 3 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-announces-expansion-american-supplier-initiative-matchmaking-events-be-held-throughout>

On 11 February 2015, the SBA launched the Leveraging Information and Networks to Access Capital initiative to pair SMEs with appropriate, interested private sector lenders using a free online ‘matchmaking’ system.²⁵⁵

On 23 February 2015, SBA Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet concluded Memorandums of Understanding with both the National Association of Federal Credit Unions and the National Credit Union Administration to expand lending and access to capital for SMEs by expanding SBA small dollar loans and increasing awareness of such loan programs available through credit unions.^{256,257}

On 24 February 2015, the National Institute of Standards and Technology of the Department of Commerce awarded new cooperative agreements to ten non-profit universities and organizations to manage new Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnerships (MEP) centres. MEP centres operate as public-private partnerships, channelling federal funding to small and mid-size manufacturers to support growth and innovation, and helping firms “create and retain jobs, increase profits, and save time and money.” This follows the announcement by NIDS in August 2014 to provide awards in these ten states as “the first step in a multi-year effort to update MEP’s funding structure to better match resources with needs.”²⁵⁸

On 19 December 2014, the SBA announced its launch of the 2015 Emerging Leaders Initiative in 48 cities nationwide. The initiative provides business mentorship to upcoming small business leaders, and has trained more than 2,400 promising small business owners in the past.²⁵⁹

The US has maintained its past commitments to programs for facilitating long-term investment, particularly for SMEs, such as the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) which extends federal funds to programs that leverage private lending to help finance creditworthy, underfunded small businesses and manufacturers.²⁶⁰

The US has made efforts to facilitate long-term financing by improving market and regulatory conditions for institutional investors and by spurring investment opportunities through means such as public-private partnerships. The US has also made efforts to support long-term financing particularly for SMEs. Thus, the US is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Adam Barrett

²⁵⁵ SBA Launches Online Matchmaking for Small Business Loans, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/blogs/sba-launches-online-matchmaking-small-business-loans>

²⁵⁶ SBA and NAFCU Partner to Help Entrepreneurs Gain Access to Capital, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-and-nafcu-partner-help-entrepreneurs-gain-access-capital>

²⁵⁷ SBA Partners with NCUA to Expand Small Business Lending Through Credit Unions, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-partners-ncua-expand-small-business-lending-through-credit-unions>

²⁵⁸ Commerce's NIST Awards \$26 Million to Support Manufacturing in 10 States, Department of Commerce (Washington) 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://www.commerce.gov/blog/2015/02/24/commerces-nist-awards-26-million-support-manufacturing-10-states>

²⁵⁹ SBA Launches 2015 Emerging Leaders Initiative, Small Business Administration - Department of Commerce (Washington) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-launches-2015-emerging-leaders-initiative>

²⁶⁰ State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI), Department of the Treasury (Washington) 5 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sb-programs/Pages/ssbci.aspx>

European Union: +1

The European Union has complied with the commitment to facilitate long-term financing from institutional investors, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

On 25 November 2014, the European Commission unveiled the mechanism for its EUR315 billion investment plan, the Investment Plan for Europe, which is set to launch in September 2015. A EUR21 billion European Fund for Strategic Investments fund is projected to generate EUR240 billion for long-term investments and EUR75 billion for small and medium enterprises between 2015 and 2017.²⁶¹ The fund, which will unlock private and public investment, will provide financing for higher risk strategic projects. The project also includes plans for an assistance program to help direct investment and a roadmap that will remove regulatory bottlenecks and financial barriers.²⁶²

On 18 December 2014, the European Council emphasized calls for a new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) in the EIB Group with the aim to mobilize EU315 billion in new investments between 2015 and 2017.²⁶³

On 17 February 2015, the Board of Governors of the European Investment Bank decided to allow SMEs across Europe to benefit from the first funds from the EFSI. In addition, the EIB Board of Governors will allow for the pre-financing of SME projects linked to the Investment Plan for Europe before the summer, which will cover the risk of transactions with intermediaries providing additional finance to SMEs and small mid-caps until the main EFSI is in place.²⁶⁴

On 18 February 2015, the European Commission launched the creation of a single market for capital its 28 members, thereby removing barriers to cross-border investments, facilitating financing for SMEs, and encouraging investment from around the world. The European Commission stated in a press release, “the Capital Markets Union aims to break down the barriers that are blocking cross-border investments in the EU and preventing businesses from getting access to finance.”²⁶⁵

The European Union has taken measures to facilitate long-term financing particularly for small and medium enterprises. Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: James Flynn

²⁶¹ Juncker's €315bn investment plan unveiled: fifteenfold leverage and solidarity for the south, European Commission (Brussels) November 26 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-priorities-2020/junckers-eu315bn-investment-plan-unveiled-fifteenfold-leverage-and>

²⁶² EU launches Investment Offensive to boost jobs and growth, European Commission (Brussels) 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2128_en.htm

²⁶³ European Council Cover Note, European Council (Brussels) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-237-2014-INIT/en/pdf>

²⁶⁴ Investment Plan: Green light for SME financing before the summer, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2015. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4441_en.htm

²⁶⁵ Unlocking Funding for Europe's Growth – European Commission consults on Capital Markets Union, European Commission 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4433_en.htm

3. Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates

2014-136: We reiterate our commitment to move more rapidly toward more market-determined exchange rate systems and exchange rate flexibility to reflect underlying fundamentals, and avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments.

G20 Brisbane Action Plan

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France	-1		
Germany	-1		
India			+1
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average		+0.05	

Background

The issue of exchange rates flexibility has been on the G20 agenda since the establishment of the forum, and commitments to move toward more market-determined exchange rate systems have been reiterated at almost each G20 summit.

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, G20 leaders committed under the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth to “undertake monetary policies consistent with price stability in the context of market oriented exchange rates that reflect underlying economic fundamentals.”²⁶⁶ At the 2010 Toronto Summit leaders decided to further enhance exchange rate flexibility, particularly in emerging markets, and mentioned that “market-oriented exchange rates that reflect underlying economic fundamentals contribute to global economic stability.”²⁶⁷ At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders agreed to the Seoul Action Plan, which provided for a move towards more market-

²⁶⁶ G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, 25 September 2009. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>.

²⁶⁷ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, 27 June 2010. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>.

determined exchange rates.²⁶⁸ At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders considered exchange rate volatility as “a risk to growth and financial stability” and renewed their Seoul Summit commitment to avoid persistent exchange rate misalignments and to refrain from competitive devaluation.²⁶⁹ At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders reiterated their exchange rates commitment and welcomed the commitment by China to “allow market forces to play a larger role in determining movements in the renminbi, continue to reform its exchange rate regime, and to increase the transparency of its exchange rate policy.”²⁷⁰ In St. Petersburg, the commitment was renewed in virtually the same form.²⁷¹

Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 members to allow the value of their currencies to be determined by market forces. At the same time, commitments on exchange rates flexibility in the G20 documents always go along with promises to refrain from competitive devaluation and not to target exchange rates for competitive purposes. Refraining from competitive devaluation is one of the aspects of flexible exchange rate regime.

Market-determined exchange rate or a floating exchange rate is an exchange rate that is determined by market forces with minimal government or central bank interference affecting the value of the currency. In a pure float there is no government or central bank intervention at all in the foreign exchange market, leaving the value of the currency subject entirely to market forces.²⁷²

Competitive devaluation, or currency war, is a policy involving measures taken by national governments to decrease the value of their currencies in order to increase exports, boost growth and domestic employment, or avoid deflation.²⁷³ Thus, competitive devaluation can be considered as an action aimed against the market-determined exchange rate goal. Given the focus on competitive devaluation G20 leaders have made in their previous communiqués, special attention should be paid to the assessment of members’ actions in this area.

The commitment calls for actions to ensure the formation of market-determined exchange rate systems. G20 members should achieve this goal through refraining from interference with the price of their currencies, including attempts to use exchange rates for competitive purposes (competitive devaluation).

²⁶⁸ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders Declaration, 12 November 2010. Date of Access: 19 January 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>.

²⁶⁹ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, 4 November 2011. Date of Access: 19 January 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>.

²⁷⁰ G20 Leaders Los Cabos Declaration, 19 June 2012. Date of Access: 19 January 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>.

²⁷¹ 2013 St Petersburg G20 Leaders' Declaration, 6 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 January 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>.

²⁷² Floating exchange rate, NASDAQ. Date of Access: 19 January 2015.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/investing/glossary/f/floating-exchange-rate>.

²⁷³ Currency Wars Evolve With Goal of Avoiding Deflation, Bloomberg 22 October 2014. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-10-22/currency-wars-evolve-with-goal-of-avoiding-deflation.html>.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not make progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate.
0	Member makes some progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, but fails to refrain from competitive devaluation of its currency.
+1	Member makes progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Argentina: -1

Argentina has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

No Argentinean measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility have been registered during the compliance period.

In December 2014, the Central Bank of Argentina published a document comprising its primary objectives for 2015. The document states that the central bank will keep making interventions into the foreign exchange market, therefore preventing Argentinean economy from being affected by exchange rate shocks (that are extremely possible due to high volatility of the Argentinean peso to the US dollar).²⁷⁴

On 25 February 2015, the Central Bank of Argentina reported that the Argentinean peso will maintain its downward trend against the dollar under the bank's control to prevent unwanted oscillations. It was also mentioned, that the government continues to control the foreign exchange market by limiting imports and authorizing all currency purchases.²⁷⁵ The governmental regulation of currency markets is demonstrated by a case in court against an exporter that did not pass the currency from exports to the government in accordance with the law.²⁷⁶

No actions taken by Argentinean government has have been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the macroeconomic policy commitment.

The exchange rate for the Australian dollar has been determined by market forces since 12 December 1983, when the Australian government floated its national currency.²⁷⁷

No information on direct government or reserve bank intervention affecting the exchange rate of Australian dollar has been registered during the monitoring period.

²⁷⁴ Objetivos y planes respecto del desarrollo de la política monetaria, financiera, crediticia y cambiaria para el año 2015, Banco Central de la República Argentina. December, 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.bcra.gov.ar/pdfs/polmon/ObjetivosBCRA_2015.pdf.

²⁷⁵ Peso argentino seguirá tendencia bajista regulada por Banco Central: presidente banco, Thomson Reuters Argentina 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://ar.reuters.com/article/topNews/idARL1NOVZ2LS20150225>.

²⁷⁶ Fallo a favor de la AFIP: la justicia condena a un exportador que no ingresó divisas, El Diario de la AFIP 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/judiciales/exportadorDivisas.aspx>.

²⁷⁷ Australia's prime ministers timeline, National Archives of Australia. Date of Access 18 May 2015. <http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/timeline/results.aspx?type=pm&pm=Robert%20Hawke>.

During the compliance period Australia has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and its exchange rate is market determined. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy. It has failed to take measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

During the compliance period the Brazilian real weakened by 22.5 and 9.5% against the US dollar and the euro respectively.²⁷⁸

The government tries to prevent the real from market-determined fluctuations caused by economic difficulties in the country and the US monetary policies. For instance, on the 9 March Brazil sold the equivalent of USD98.3 million of currency swaps as part of a plan to offer as much as USD100 million a day until at least March 31 in order to support the real and limit import price increases. It rolled over contracts worth USD356.2 million.²⁷⁹

On the 24 March, Alexandre Tombini, President of the Central Bank of Brazil, told lawmakers that the sale of swaps supporting the currency fulfilled policymakers' objectives, while adding that extending the maturities of existing hedges is appropriate in the short and medium term.²⁸⁰

No facts of Brazilian actions aimed at competitive devaluation of its currency have been registered during the compliance period.

No Brazil's progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate has been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

The last time the Bank of Canada intervened in foreign exchange markets to affect the Canadian dollar's foreign exchange rate was in September 1998.²⁸¹

During the compliance period Canada has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

²⁷⁸ Banco Central do Brazil. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www4.bcb.gov.br/pec/taxas/port/ptaxnpesq.asp?id=txcotacao>

²⁷⁹ Brazil Real Leads Global Declines as Court Blocks Rousseff Probe, Bloomberg 9 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-09/brazil-real-drops-to-10-year-low-as-court-blocks-rousseff-probe>

²⁸⁰ Brazil Scales Back Currency Support as Real Sinks to 12-Year Low, Bloomberg 24 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-24/brazil-s-tombini-says-in-no-hurry-to-reduce-currency-swap-volume>

²⁸¹ Intervention in the Foreign Exchange Market, Bank of Canada 2012. Access Date: 12 May 2015. http://www.bankofcanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/intervention_foreign_exchange.pdf

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Since the beginning of the monitoring period to 22 April 2015 the renminbi exchange rate against the euro rose by 16%,²⁸² and fell by 1.2% against the dollar.²⁸³

On 6 January 2015, at the press conference of the China State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) on policies during the fourth quarter of 2014, director of the Comprehensive Department at the SAFE Wang Yungui mentioned that the People's Bank of China and the SAFE will continue to promote the marketization reform of the renminbi exchange rate formation mechanism. The SAFE will allow the market to play a more crucial role in the exchange rate formation mechanism, enhance monitoring of cross-border capital flows, and develop the foreign exchange market to gradually achieve a basic equilibrium in the balance of payments and create a favourable environment for the development of China's foreign-related economy and finance.²⁸⁴

On 9 January 2015, China's central bank declared that "it will continue with its prudent monetary policies in 2015 with better coordination of tight and loose monetary measures and proper fine-tuning." It will use various tools to maintain the reasonably rich liquidity in the bank system, support the real economy and facilitate structural adjustment. Financial reforms will be boosted, including reforms on interest rates, the yuan exchange rate formation system and foreign exchange management.²⁸⁵

On 5 March 2015, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivered the government work report during the opening meeting of the third session of China's 12th National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. He said that China would continue to implement proactive fiscal policy and prudent monetary policy in 2015, while noting policy flexibility to sustain economic growth. The country will also keep the exchange rate at an appropriate and balanced level and allow it to float more freely,²⁸⁶ while keeping it basically stable at an appropriate, balanced level. China will also allow the pricing of more debt products of financial institutions to be market-based and improve the central bank's framework of adjusting interest rates.²⁸⁷

²⁸² <http://ikurs.org/CNY-EUR.html>

²⁸³ Historical Rates for the Chinese Yuan Renminbi, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 20 April 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/h10/hist/dat00_ch.htm

²⁸⁴ Transcript of the SAFE Press Conference for Quarter Four of 2014, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange 6 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.safe.gov.cn/wps/portal/lut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gPZxdnX293QwP30FAnA8_AEBc3C1Njl3czi_1wkA48Kgw8gY4gKOBvp9Hfm6qfkF2dpqjo6liABQXMys!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfSENEQ01LRzEwT085RTBJNkE1U1NDRzNMTDQ!/?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/wps/wcm/connect/safe_web_store/state+administration+of+foreign+exchange/safe+news/80e8378046d55a66a2d9a2df84a4806f

²⁸⁵ China's central bank vows prudent policies in 2015, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 9 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/01/10/content_281475037038521.htm

²⁸⁶ Highlights of government work report, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/premier/news/2015/03/05/content_281475066011469.htm

²⁸⁷ Full text: Report on China's economic, social development plan, the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.npc.gov.cn/englishnpc/Special_12_3/2015-03/19/content_1930758.htm

During the compliance period China has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: -1

France has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

There is no information about any recommendations of French authorities to the European Union entities concerning more market-determined exchange rates.

In fact, on 16 March 2015, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said that the good exchange euro/dollar rate should be parity. He said that the euro was “not too strong, but too expensive.”²⁸⁸

During the compliance period France has not made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: -1

Germany has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Germany has taken no measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

Germany is a member of the eurozone, thus, the German government has no jurisdiction to determine the exchange rate of the euro. Currency policy in the eurozone is carried out at the supranational level by the European Central Bank (ECB). But there is no information about any actions or proposals by German experts in the ECB concerning more market-determined exchange rates and their flexibility.

Germany has used its exchange rate devaluation for competitive purposes.

The exchange rate of the euro to US dollar has fallen by 14.4% over the period of monitoring (from 17 November 2014 till 21 April 2015).²⁸⁹ Such dramatic devaluation is likely to be the result of the expanded asset purchase program (also known as quantitative easing).²⁹⁰ According to it, combined monthly asset purchases of the ECB should reach the amount of EUR60 billion. The implementation of the program can be confirmed by the history of the ECB's open market operations.²⁹¹ Apart from purchasing bonds, there was another tool which affected the exchange rate significantly. According to the long-term interest rate statistics of Germany, a stable decreasing trend

²⁸⁸ Fabius: le bon taux de change euro-dollar est "celui de la parité". Date of Access: 22 2015. <http://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-eco/2015/03/15/97002-20150315FILWWW00220-fabius-le-bon-taux-de-change-euro-dollar-est-celui-de-la-parite.php>

²⁸⁹ EUR vs. USD exchange rate, European Central Bank. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/eurofxref-graph-usd.en.html>

²⁹⁰ ECB Announces Expanded Asset Purchase Programme, European Central Bank 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2015/html/pr150122_1.en.html

²⁹¹ History Of All ECB Open Market Operations, European Central Bank. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/mopo/implement/omo/html/top_history.en.html

of the interest rate can be noticed (from November 2014 to March 2015 the rate fell down by 49 percentage points).²⁹²

On 18 April 2015, Bundesbank President Jens Weidmann in a joint press conference with Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble admitted that the euro's depreciation was certainly playing a role by making German products more competitive and tending to boost exports. The German firms' export surpluses, according to him, were the consequences of the ECB's quantitative easing program.²⁹³

No Germany's progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate has been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

During the period under review the exchange rate of the rupee to the US dollar fell by 1.01% and the rate to the euro increased by 13.96% (as of 16 April 2015).²⁹⁴

India has taken measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

On 3 February 2015, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Raghuram G. Rajan stated that India has taken actions aimed at targeting the particular exchange rate, and RBI interventions are aimed solely at reducing volatility.²⁹⁵

On 27 February 2015, RBI Executive Director Shri G. Mahalingam at the India Treasury Summit in Mumbai announced that during the last (for that moment) two decades the rupee exchange rate was determined by the market forces. He also noticed that Indian strategy of exchange rate management comprised the regulation of capital flows without targeting the exchange rate at any level. Besides, the director emphasized the recent relative sustainability of the rupee, which he explained by continuous fii — foreign institutional investors — inflows, a reduction in current account deficit, political stability, India's forex reserves increase, improvement in macroeconomic indicators and other factors, which are not governmental actions.²⁹⁶

No facts of Indian actions aimed at competitive devaluation of the national currency have been registered during the compliance period.

²⁹² Long-Term Interest Rate Statistics For EU Member States, European Central Bank. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/money/long/html/index.en.html>

²⁹³ Weidmann: Do Not Artificially Weaken German Competitiveness, Deutsche Bundesbank 20 April 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.bundesbank.de/Redaktion/EN/Topics/2015/2015_04_20_weidmann_do_not_artificially_weaken_german_competitiveness.html?startpageId=Startseite-EN&startpageAreaId=Teaserbereich&startpageLinkName=2015_04_20_weidmann_do_not_artificially_weaken_german_competitiveness+334946

²⁹⁴ Reference Rate Archive, Reserve Bank of India. Date of access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/ReferenceRateArchive.aspx>.

²⁹⁵ Edited Transcript of Reserve Bank of India's Post Policy Conference Call with Media, Reserve Bank of India 3 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://rbi.org.in/scripts/bs_viewcontent.aspx?Id=2964.

²⁹⁶ Some Thoughts on Forex Markets in India (Keynote address delivered by Shri G. Mahalingam, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India on February 25, 2015 at the India Treasury Summit in Mumbai), Reserve Bank of India 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_SpeechesView.aspx?Id=943.

India has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Indonesia took no measures toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility during the compliance period.

According to the central bank of Indonesia, the rupiah depreciated against the US dollar in 2014 but appreciated against the currencies of other leading trading partners. Rupiah depreciation against the dollar in the fourth quarter of 2014 is explained by the dollar's "appreciation against nearly all global currencies after the release of improved US economic data as well as the planned hike to the Fed Fund Rate."²⁹⁷ The trend of the rupiah depreciation continued in 2015. Indonesian central bank implemented measures to keep the rupiah stable, including market interventions as well as purchasing government bonds in the secondary market. Keeping the stability of the rupiah at the exchange rate that is in line with its fundamental will remain one of the central bank's objectives in future.²⁹⁸

Indonesia has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

No Indonesia's progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate has been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with the macroeconomic policy commitment.

Italy is in the eurozone, with the euro as a currency. The Bank of Italy is an integral part of the eurosystem and performs in accordance with the rules set by the decision-making bodies of the European Central Bank (ECB). ECB monetary policy is characterized by regular open market operations, targeting short-term interest rates, liquidity and longer-term financial sector refinancing.²⁹⁹

On 22 January 2015, the ECB announced the expanded asset purchase program, under which the combined asset purchases will amount to EUR60 billion per month until at least September 2016. According to the ECB this program was designed to fulfill its price stability mandate.³⁰⁰ This move

²⁹⁷ Monetary Policy Review - January 2015, Central Bank of Indonesia 27 January 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/kebijakan-moneter/tinjauan/Pages/Monetary-Policy-Review-January-2015.aspx>.

²⁹⁸ Monetary Policy Review - March 2015, Central Bank of Indonesia 31 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/kebijakan-moneter/tinjauan/Pages/Monetary-Policy-Review---March-2015.aspx>.

²⁹⁹ Open market operations, European Central Bank. Date of access 19 May 2015. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/mopo/implement/omo/html/index.en.html>.

³⁰⁰ ECB announces expanded asset purchase programme, European Central Bank 22 January 2015. Date of access 19 May 2015. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/pr/date/2015/html/pr150122_1.en.html.

can be regarded as an instance of competitive devaluation as it affected the exchange rate of euro.³⁰¹ However, no direct Italian involvement in this action can be identified.

Despite the involvement in the decision-making process of the ECB's Governing Council, no facts of Italian government bodies' actions, which can be regarded as competitive devaluation, have been registered.

No facts of Italy's actions aimed at moving towards more market-determined exchange rate have been registered.

During the compliance period Italy has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency but took no action to move towards a more market-determined exchange rate. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: +1

Japan introduced a free-floating exchange rate system in February 1973.³⁰² No facts of Japan's central bank interventions aimed at the exchange rates of the national currency have been registered during the compliance period.

Japan has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Korea has taken measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

According to the Bank of Korea, since December 1997 the country's exchange rate system has been based on the free-floating won.³⁰³

No facts of Korean actions towards competitive devaluation of its currency have been registered during the compliance period.

Although the won's exchange rate to the US dollar and yen slightly dropped during the compliance period, this fact is expected mainly by the general strengthening of the US currency against other

³⁰¹ Devaluation and discord as the world's currencies quietly go to war, The Guardian 25 January 2015. Date of access 19 May 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jan/25/devaluation-discord-currencies-war-quantitative-easing>.

³⁰² Floating Exchange Rates: The Lessons of Recent Experience. Société Universitaire Européenne de Recherches Financières. BRILL, 1976

³⁰³ Exchange Rate System, Bank of Korea. Access date: 1 June 2015. <http://www.bok.or.kr/broadcast.action?menuNavild=690>.

currencies and changes in expectations of the market participants, rather than any actions taken by the central bank³⁰⁴

Korea has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Since 1994 exchange rate in Mexico is determined by market forces (floating exchange rate/free float regime) in accordance with the Foreign Exchange Commission's decision.³⁰⁵

On 21 April 2015, Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mexico Manuel Sánchez informed that "Mexico uses a floating exchange rate regime. The policy emphasis has been on the creation of deep spot and forward foreign exchange (FX) markets, as well as on enhancing the liquidity of the domestic bond market. Mexico's currency market is the most liquid among those of all emerging economies ... in cases of extraordinary market volatility and particularly amid low liquidity, the country [Mexico] sometimes uses marginal rule-based FX intervention, mostly as a way to send a signal of confidence to market participants."³⁰⁶

Since the Brisbane Summit the exchange rate between the US dollar and the Mexican peso changed insignificantly: from 13.5445 (as of 18 November 2014) to 15.3834 (as of 24 April 2015).³⁰⁷ The euro-peso exchange rate also slightly changed: from 16.9523 (as of 18 November 2014) to 16.6371 (as of 24 April 2015).³⁰⁸

In December 2014 and March 2015 in the context of continued international financial markets volatility Mexican Exchange Commission (Comisión de Cambios) adopted the additional preventive measures aimed at providing liquidity to foreign exchange market. On 8 December 2014, the Bank of Mexico announced everyday USD200 million proposal at lowest exchange rate at public sales.³⁰⁹ On 11 March 2015, it announced an everyday USD52 million proposal without minimum price at public

³⁰⁴ Foreign Exchange Market Trends(2015.Q1), Bank of Korea 24 April 2015. Access date: 1 June 2015. http://www.bok.or.kr/down.search?file_path=/attach/eng/634/2015/04/1429608207175.pdf&file_name=FX+Market+Trends%282015.Q1%29.pdf.

³⁰⁵ FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET (EXCHANGE RATES). Date of assess: 23 February 2015.

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/portal-mercado-cambiario/foreign-exchange-markets--exc.html>.

³⁰⁶ Understanding macroprudential instruments and their impact. 21 April 2015. Date of assess: 26 April 2015.

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/publicaciones-y-discursos/discursos-y-presentaciones/discursos/%7BBBF8C8CF-878C-DB90-16EC-D9A45554060A%7D.pdf>.

³⁰⁷ Exchange rates and auctions historical information. Date of assess: 26 April 2015.

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/SieInternet/consultarDirectorioInternetAction.do?accion=consultarCuadro&idCuadro=CF373§or=6&locale=en>.

³⁰⁸ Tipos de cambio respecto a otras divisas. Euro. Date of assess: 26 April 2015.

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/tipcamb/otrasDivAction.do?idioma=sp>.

³⁰⁹ La Comisión de Cambios adopta medidas preventivas para proveer liquidez al mercado cambiario en caso necesario. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.banxico.org.mx/informacion-para-la-prensa/comunicados/politica-cambiar/comision-de-cambios/%7B3356C133-B2B2-2A30-AE8F-ECFCCE139288%7D.pdf>.

sales. However, these measures were aimed at providing liquidity rather than influencing the exchange rate.³¹⁰

During the compliance period Mexico has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and its exchange rate is largely market-determined. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

Russia has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

On 10 November 2014, the Central Bank of Russia abolished the exchange rate policy mechanism through cancelling the permissible range of the dual-currency basket ruble values (the so-called operational band) and regular interventions on and outside the borders of this band. The new approach did not provide for complete abandonment of foreign exchange interventions, which still can be implemented in case of financial stability threats. However, the ruble exchange rate is now determined mainly by market forces.³¹¹

Russia has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Despite the depreciation of the ruble against major foreign currencies, data on the central bank currency interventions shows that the amount of foreign currency sold during the compliance period exceeds that purchased, implying that the activities of the central bank were generally aimed at supporting the ruble exchange rate.³¹² For instance, in May 2015, in order to replenish international reserves the Central Bank of Russia took a decision to conduct foreign currency purchases in the domestic foreign exchange market from May 13. It was emphasized that “these operations do not seek to maintain the ruble exchange rate at a certain level and will be conducted in such a way that the impact on the ruble exchange rate dynamics is minimized.”³¹³

During the compliance period Russia has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Andrey Shelepov and Mark Rakmangulov

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

³¹⁰ La Comisión de Cambios adopta medidas preventivas adicionales para proveer liquidez al mercado cambiario. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.banxico.org.mx/informacion-para-la-prensa/comunicados/politica-cambiaría/comision-de-cambios/%7BF0793066-927C-5B11-5180-E6905D18B4B1%7D.pdf>.

³¹¹ On parameters of Bank of Russia exchange rate policy, Bank of Russia 10 November 2014. Access Date: 15 June 2015. http://cbr.ru/eng/press/PR.aspx?file=10112014_122958eng_dkp2014-11-10T12_26_04.htm.

³¹² Data on the Bank of Russia currency interventions (monthly), Bank of Russia June 2015. Access Date: 15 June 2015. http://cbr.ru/eng/hd_base/default.aspx?prtId=valint&pid=idkp_br&sid=ITM_40998.

³¹³ Monetary Policy Report No.2 June 2015, Russian Central Bank. http://www.cbr.ru/eng/publ/ddcp/2015_02_ddcp_e.pdf.

The Saudi riyal exchange rate has remained pegged to the US dollar at a fixed rate since mid 1986.³¹⁴

No Saudi Arabian progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate has been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

From 16 November 2014 to 31 May 2015 South African rand's exchange rate to the US dollar increased by about 10%.³¹⁵

However, no specific actions aimed at stimulating the rand exchange rate flexibility have been registered during the compliance period.

South Africa has failed to make any concrete progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, although refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: -1

Turkey has not complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

No facts illustrating Turkish move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility have been registered during the compliance period.

The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey is responsible for taking necessary measures in order to protect the value of the lira and establish the exchange rate regime determining its parity against gold and foreign currencies jointly with the government. According to the central bank, under the current monetary policy it executes spot and forward purchase and sale of foreign currencies, foreign exchange swaps and other derivatives transactions in order to determine the value of the Turkish lira against foreign currencies.

Turkey has used its exchange rate devaluation for competitive purposes.

From 16 November 2014 to 29 April 2015, the indicative exchange rate³¹⁶ of the lira to the US dollar increased from 2.24 to 2.66.³¹⁷ The rate to the euro in the same period changed from 2.79 to 2.93, reflecting the lira depreciation.³¹⁸

³¹⁴ Speech by His Excellency the Governor of SAMA to the Workshop on: "Economic Policies and Prominent Challenges Facing the Saudi Economy to Achieve Sustainable Development", Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency 8 February 2015. Access date: 18 May 2015. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/News20150208.aspx>.

³¹⁵ USD/ZAR exchange rate. Yahoo Finance. [http://finance.yahoo.com/echarts?s=ZAR%3DX+Interactive#{\"customRangeStart\":1416085200,\"customRangeEnd\":1433019600,\"range\":\"custom\",\"allowChartStacking\":true}](http://finance.yahoo.com/echarts?s=ZAR%3DX+Interactive#{\).

³¹⁶ Determining the Indicative Exchange Rates, Central Bank of Turkey. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/TCMB+EN/TCMB+EN/Main+Menu/MARKETS/Foreign+Exchange+and+Bank+notes+Markets/Determining+the+Indicative+Exchange+Rates>.

³¹⁷ Exchange Rates (Daily), Central Bank of Turkey. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://evds.tcmb.gov.tr/fame/webfactory/evdpw/rpt/46713.html>.

On 4 February 2015, Turkish economy minister Nihat Zeybekci declared that lira devaluation should be considered before deciding in favour of a tight monetary policy. He mentioned that “a competitive currency rate is positive for exports as well as for the Turkish economy as a whole” and many countries have already allowed their currencies to lose value in order boost their exports and stimulate the economy.³¹⁹

No Turkey’s progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate has been registered during the compliance cycle. Thus, it is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

The UK has taken measures to move toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility.

According to the Bank of England, it has conducted no interventions for the purposes of influencing the exchange rate for the pound since 1992.³²⁰

No facts of UK’s actions towards competitive devaluation of its currency have been registered during the compliance period.

Since 17 November 2014 till 27 April 2015, the effective exchange rate index of the pound (2005=100) has increased from 86.4 to 91.06 showing the strengthening of the pound against the basket of other currencies.³²¹

The UK has made progress in moving toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including through refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

The US dollar exchange rate is market determined; the US Treasury and the Federal Reserve do not target any particular level for the exchange rate.³²²

³¹⁸ Exchange Rates (Daily), Central Bank of Turkey. Date of Access: 27 April 2015.

<http://evds.tcmb.gov.tr/fame/webfactory/evdpw/rpt/46199.html>.

³¹⁹ Turkish Economy Minister: Weaker lira might be beneficial, Anadolu Agency 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/460705--turkish-economy-minister-weaker-lira-might-be-beneficial>.

³²⁰ Statistical Release. UK official holdings of international reserves. March 2015, UK Government 2 April 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/420567/Reserves_Statistical_Release_March_2015.pdf.

³²¹ Effective exchange rate index, Sterling (Jan 2005=100), Bank of England. Access date: 17 April 2015.

<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/boeapps/iadb/fromshowcolumns.asp?Travel=NIXIRxSUX&FromSeries=1&ToSeries=50&DAT=RNG&FD=16&FM=Nov&FY=2014&TD=27&TM=Apr&TY=2015&VFD=Y&html.x=17&html.y=13&CSVF=TT&C=IIN&Filter=N>.

During the period under review the US Federal Open Market Committee reported of no interventions in foreign currencies for the Federal Reserve System's account.^{323,324,325}

No new quantitative easing programs have been announced during the compliance period; the last quantitative easing (QE3) was ended in 2014.

The United States has refrained from influencing exchange rates, including from competitive devaluation of its currency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment on macroeconomic policy.

The EU monitors the euro exchange rate. On 28 November 2014, the European Commission stated that when the three-year average is considered, the real effective exchange rate has depreciated in most EU countries, but has remained within the indicative thresholds in each of them.³²⁶

On 22 January 2015, the European Central Bank (ECB) announced an expanded stimulus program amounting to EUR60 billion a month in asset purchases in an effort to revive the eurozone's economy. As a result, the euro weakened to 11-year lows.³²⁷

On 2 January 2015, ECB President Mario Draghi answered the question whether ECB was encouraging euro depreciation to bring down the price of European exports. He said that ECB was not regulating the exchange rate though it is important for price stability and growth. He explained that weaker than expected recovery and higher than expected unemployment contributed to a weak exchange rate.³²⁸

On 17 April 2015, talking about negative inflation in the euro area Draghi said that the ECB would continue to closely monitor the risks to the inflation outlook and, in this context, the Governing Council will focus in particular on the exchange rate among other issues.³²⁹

³²² How does the foreign exchange value of the dollar relate to Federal Reserve policy? Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.federalreserve.gov/faqs/economy_12763.htm.

³²³ Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 16-17 December 2014. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomcminutes20141217.htm>.

³²⁴ Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 27-28 January 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015. <http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomcminutes20150128.htm>.

³²⁵ Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System 17-18 March 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015. <http://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/fomcminutes20150318.htm>.

³²⁶ Report from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank and the European Economic and Social Committee, European Commission 28 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/2015/amr2015_en.pdf

³²⁷ Aggressive ECB Stimulus Ushers In New Era for Europe, The Wall Street Journal 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/ecb-announces-stimulus-plan-1421931011>

³²⁸ Interview with Mario Draghi, President of the ECB, European Central Bank 2 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/inter/date/2015/html/sp150102_1.en.html

³²⁹ Statement by Mario Draghi, President of the ECB, prepared for the thirty-first meeting of the International Monetary and Financial Committee, European Central Bank 17 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/press/key/date/2015/html/sp150417.en.html>

The EU maintains a market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility; however, some signals of using competitive devaluation of its currency have been registered. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

4. Trade

“We commit to implement all elements of the Bali package.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa			+1
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union	-1		
Average		+0.05	

Background

Since the Washington Summit of 2008, G20 countries have consistently committed to reducing barriers to international trade in the form of protectionist measures, burdensome administrative procedures, investment restrictions, and non-tariff measures regarding imports. Generally, this commitment has been considered a long-term goal for a healthy global economy and a means towards economic recovery following the global financial crisis.³³⁰

With the resumption of the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Round of trade talks at the Bali Ministerial Conference in December 2013, the trade commitment is taking on a more positive character. It now encompasses specific and uniformly agreed-upon policy measures. At the recent Brisbane Summit, G20 states committed to implementing all elements of the Bali package in an effort to facilitate global trade.³³¹

³³⁰2014 G20 Brisbane Summit Communiqué, 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 31 January 2014.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communication.html>

³³¹2013 St. Petersburg G20 Summit Final Compliance Report, 15 November 2014. Date of Access: 31 January 2014.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2013stpetersburg-final/index.html>

Commitment Features

G20 members must implement the Bali package in full. The package includes a series of measures focused on trade facilitation and adopted at the World Trade Organization's Bali Ministerial Conference on 7 December 2013.

The package consists of policy measures focused explicitly on trade facilitation, as well as miscellaneous policy measures directed at reducing tariffs, subsidies and burdensome administrative procedures vis a vis specific industries or nations.³³²

G20 members' compliance with the commitment is gauged against national implementation of a selection of specific and identifiable policy commitments contained in the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.³³³

The sub-articles selected to be evaluated for this commitment have been chosen according to two criteria: 1) they lend themselves to monitoring and 2) they constitute steps that member states can take proactively, as opposed to in reaction to a certain event.

As the Bali package was agreed upon in December 2013, some G20 members continued to implement measures during the 2014 Brisbane compliance cycle. In such cases, the G20 member is awarded full compliance.

Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information

1. Publication

- 1.1. Each Member shall promptly publish the following information in a non-discriminatory and easily accessible manner in order to enable governments, traders and other interested parties to become acquainted with them:
 - a. Importation, exportation and transit procedures (including port, airport, and other entry-point procedures) and required forms and documents;
 - b. Applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation;
 - c. Fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit;
 - d. Rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes;
 - e. Laws, regulations and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin;
 - f. Import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions;
 - g. Penalty provisions against breaches of import, export or transit formalities;

Commission consults on Capital Markets Union, European Commission (Brussels) 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4433_en.htm

³³² Ministerial Conference Ninth Session, Bali, 3-6 December 2013, Ministerial Declaration and Decisions, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 11 December 2013. Date of Access: 1 February 2015.

³³³ <http://naega.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/WTO-Bali-Action-Item.pdf>

- h. Appeal procedures;
- i. Agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation or transit;
- j. Procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.

2. *Information Available Through Internet*

- 2.1. Each Member shall make available, and update to the extent possible and as appropriate, the following through the internet:
 - a. A description of its importation, exportation and transit procedures, including appeal procedures, that informs governments, traders and other interested parties of the practical steps needed to import and export, and for transit;
 - b. The forms and documents required for importation into, exportation from, or transit through the territory of that Member;
 - c. Contact information on enquiry points.

Article 3: Advance Rulings

6. *Each member shall publish, at a minimum:*

- a. the requirements for the application for an advance ruling, including the information to be provided and the format;
- b. the time period by which it will issue an advance ruling; and
- c. the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.

Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods

1. *Pre-arrival processing*

- 1.1. Each Member shall adopt or maintain procedures allowing for the submission of import documentation and other required information, including manifests, in order to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival.
- 1.2. Members shall, as appropriate, provide for advance lodging of documents in electronic format for pre-arrival processing of such documents.

2. *Electronic payment*

Each Member shall, to the extent practicable, adopt or maintain procedures allowing the option of electronic payment for duties, taxes, fees and charges collected by customs incurred upon importation and exportation.

Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit

5. *Pre-shipment inspection*

- 5.1. Members shall not require the use of pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.

6. Use of Customs Brokers

- 6.1. Without prejudice to the important policy concerns of some Members that currently maintain a special role for customs brokers, from the entry into force of this agreement Members shall not introduce the mandatory use of customs brokers.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member fails to implement and/or maintain measures under any of the articles listed in the guidelines AND/OR member does not adhere to either of 5.1 or 6.1 of Article 10.
0	G20 member implements and/or maintains measures under each of the articles listed in the guidelines, but not in their totality. Member also adheres to both 5.1 and 6.1 of Article 10.
+1	G20 member implements and/or maintains all of the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines in their totality. Member also adheres to both 5.1 and 6.1 of Article 10.

Lead Analyst: Hayden Rodenkirche

Argentina: -1

Argentina has not complied with the trade-facilitation measures of the Bali package.

On 22 August 2014, a World Trade Organization Dispute Settlement Panel ruled against Argentina since it did not provide laws and regulations relating to importation guidelines such as asserting the limits of imports' value and volume; these trade-related requirements were not found in any form of law regulation or other written measures.³³⁴ Thus, these 'unwritten' measures failed to enable governments, traders and other interested parties with publication of consistent information in regards to importation.

Argentina successfully fulfills the requirements under Article 3: Advance Rulings. The Federal Administration of Public Revenue provides online information on the requirements for the application for an advance ruling.³³⁵ Hence, Argentina complies with Article 3 of the Bali Package. Argentina also fulfills the requirements under Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods. The Directorate General of Taxes maintains various customs procedures in order to allow submission of import documentation.³³⁶

Argentina fails to fulfill the requirements under Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit.

On February 12 2015, the Argentine Foreign Minister Héctor Timerman admitted there were trade disagreements between Argentina and Brazil — two members of Mercosur. Argentina failed to alleviate import restrictions to Brazil, resulting in a decline of imports.³³⁷ Hence, Argentina did not adhere to section 5.1 of Article 10, which demands omitting pre-shipment inspections.

³³⁴ WTO Panel Rules Against Argentina Regarding Certain Measures Affecting the Importation of Goods, Mayer Brown 10 September 2014. Date of Access: 20 April 2015
<http://www.mayerbrown.com/WTO-Panel-Rules-Against-Argentina-Regarding-Certain-Measures-Affecting-the-Importation-of-Goods-09-10-2014/>

³³⁵ Tax Information, AFIP (Buenos Aires) Date of Access: 20 April 2015
<http://www.afip.gob.ar/english/taxInformation.asp#d>

³³⁶ Import Customs Procedures In Argentina, Santander Trade, March 2015. Date of Access: 20 April 2015.
https://en.santandertrade.com/international-shipments/argentina/customs-procedures?&actualiser_id_banque=oui&id_banque=0&memoriser_choix=memoriser

³³⁷ Argentina and Brazil admit trade disagreements between Mercosur main partners, MercoPress (Montevideo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 9 March 2015

Although Argentina maintains some of the measures in the Bali package, it fails to implement section 5.1 of Article 10.

Although Argentina has implemented some of the measures under the articles listed in the Bali package, it does not adhere to section 5.1 of Article 10. Argentina fails to fulfill the requirements under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information under the Bali package. Thus, Argentina is awarded a -1.

Analyst: Arturo Sparks

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with all the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines.

Australia has fulfilled its requirements under Article 1 of the Bali Package. The Government of Australia has published a website for “customs procedures for importing and exporting” that provides online guides and information regarding procedures for importing and exporting goods.³³⁸

The Australian government has also provided an online guide for step-by-step advice on importing and exporting goods under the agreement thus satisfying Article 2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.³³⁹

Among the guides available on the aforementioned website is an “advance rulings” guide that provides information regarding the length of time with which the advance ruling is valid, the time period by which it will issue the advance ruling and where to find more information regarding the requirements of applying for the advance ruling.³⁴⁰ This satisfies Article 3 of the Bali agreement.

The website also provides a page for “Pre-arrival requirements” that lists the procedures required for submitting import documentation before the arrival of goods into Australia. The forms required to complete the relevant procedures are also provided in electronic format online.³⁴¹ This satisfies Article 7.1 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. Furthermore, in accordance with Article 7.2, the Government of Australia has made it possible to pay duties, taxes, fees and charges online for importation and exportation services.³⁴² The “Pre-arrival requirements” page also does not specify any policy for pre-shipment inspection.³⁴³ Also, as specified by the “customs broker” page of the aforementioned website, the use of customs brokers was granted by the Australian government under the Customs Act 1901.³⁴⁴ The former initiatives are consistent with Articles 10.5.1 and 10.6.1 of the agreement.

<http://en.mercopress.com/2015/02/12/argentina-and-brazil-admit-trade-disagreements-between-mercosur-main-partners>

³³⁸ Customs procedures for importing and exporting (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015.

<http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page4226.asp>.

³³⁹ Guide to using KAFTA to export and import goods (Canberra). Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/kafta/fact-sheets/Pages/guide-to-using-kafta-to-export-and-import-goods.aspx>.

³⁴⁰ Advance Rulings: Tariff, Valuation and Origin Advice (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015.

<http://www.customs.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/AdvanceRulingsTariffValuationandOriginAdvice-June2011.pdf>.

³⁴¹ Pre-arrival requirements (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page5803.asp>.

³⁴² Paying Customs and Border Protection Invoices (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015.

<http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page6065.asp#Online>.

³⁴³ Pre-arrival requirements (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page5803.asp>.

³⁴⁴ Customs Broker (Canberra). Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.customs.gov.au/site/page6090.asp>.

Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of +1 for complying with all the measures listed in the guidelines.

Analyst: Nour Chehabeddine

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the trade-facilitation or miscellaneous measures of the Bali package.

On 31 October 2014, the Brazilian government stated that implementing trade-facilitation measures is one of the country's main priorities. This is evident through the government's new project to create an online framework with documents containing all trade procedures and the launch of the Siscomex system Drawback Isenção Web, which provides trade mechanisms to be applied to online documents.³⁴⁵

Brazil continued implementing some measures of the Bali package, which it had begun before the current compliance period, but it failed to comply with the minimum six measures of the Bali package. Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Arturo Sparks

Canada: +1

Canada has implemented or maintained all the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines including those listed in Article 10.

Canada fulfills the requirements under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information under the Bali package. Canada publishes information regarding importation, exportation and transit procedures along with required forms and documents.³⁴⁶ Canada also publishes the applied rates of duties, taxes and fees imposed on imports, exports or transit.³⁴⁷ Rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes are also provided, including the procedures relating to the administration of tariffs.³⁴⁸ Canada provides various laws, regulations and administrative rulings relating to rules of origin as well as agreements with countries relating to trade.³⁴⁹ Canada also provides resources on restricted or prohibited items for export and import.³⁵⁰ If trade conditions are not met, Canada provides penalty provisions.³⁵¹ Canada also provides contact information to enquiry

³⁴⁵ Governo Reforça Compromisso Com Facilitação Comercial, Portal Brasil (Sao Paulo) 31 October 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015

<http://www.brasil.gov.br/economia-e-emprego/2014/10/governo-reforca-compromisso-com-facilitacao-comercial>

³⁴⁶ Canada Border Services Agency, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html#>

³⁴⁷ Step-by-Step Guide to Importing Commercial Goods into Canada, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 1 October 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/guide-eng.html>

³⁴⁸ Chapter-by-Chapter Customs Tariff, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 1 October 2014. Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/trade-commerce/tariff-tarif/2014/html/tblmod-04-eng.html>

³⁴⁹ D11: General Tariff Information, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 15 October 2014. Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/dm-md/d11-eng.html>

³⁵⁰ Prohibited or Restricted Goods, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 28 July 2008. Date of Access: 3 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/security-secure/prohib-eng.html>

³⁵¹ Master Penalty Document, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 28 March 2014. Date of Access: 3 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/trade-commerce/amps/am-rm-eng.html>

points for questions regarding trade procedures, duties, rules and appeals.³⁵² Canada outlines procedures for the administration of tariff quotas.³⁵³ All of this information is available on the internet, fulfilling the requirement second requirement under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information. This includes contact information for enquiry points and the necessary forms needed for trade within Canada.³⁵⁴

Canada provides information on advance rulings including the requirements for application, the time period it takes to provide the ruling and the length of time a ruling is valid in accordance with Article 3: Advanced Rulings.³⁵⁵ Canada also fulfills the requirements for Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods to allow for pre-arrival processing of goods into Canada, including providing for lodging of documents in electronic format.³⁵⁶ The option for electronic payment of debit or credit is also available at some border crossings.³⁵⁷

Finally, under Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit, shipment inspection in relation to tariff classification and custom valuation is not required and the use of customs brokers is optional, not mandatory.³⁵⁸

Canada has implemented or maintained all the measures in the Bali package under the articles listed in the guidelines including those listed in Article 10. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anna Hobenadel

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to implement the Bali package.

China publishes its “laws, regulations, and progressively, all procedures concerning the protection, including enforcement, of intellectual property rights” on the website of the Ministry of Commerce, relevant departmental websites, including State Administration for Industry & Commerce, and State Intellectual Property office.³⁵⁹

³⁵² Canada’s Notification Authority and Enquiry Point, Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development in Canada (Ottawa) 31 March 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/wto-omc/enquiry.aspx?lang=eng>

³⁵³ Tariff Rate Quotas, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 28 January 2010. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/dm-md/d10/d10-18-1-eng.html>

³⁵⁴ Forms, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/forms-formulaires/menu-eng.html>

³⁵⁵ Advance Rulings for Tariff Classification, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 5 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/ar-da/menu-eng.html#b3>

³⁵⁶ Other Service Systems: Pre-Arrival Review System, Canada Border Services (Ottawa) 27 July 2009. Date of Access: 5 March 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/services-eng.html>

³⁵⁷ Step-by-Step Guide to Importing Commercial Goods into Canada, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 1 October 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/guide-eng.html>

³⁵⁸ Step-by-Step Guide to Importing Commercial Goods into Canada, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 1 October 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/import/guide-eng.html>

³⁵⁹ “Implementation of APEC’s Area-Specific Transparency Standards” Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Singapore). Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/APEC-Transparency-Standards.aspx>

The website of the China Legislative Information Network System publishes trade-related laws and regulations of the Central government, and has made available all draft administrative regulations for public comments since 2008.³⁶⁰

China Customs, as required by relevant Chinese laws, transparently publishes advance customs rulings on its website.³⁶¹

In September, 2013, the Free Trade Zone (FTZ) of Shanghai published a “smart” Inspection & Release system with its Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Bureau, which allows customers to “inquire information of the whole logistics process of import good.” The FTZ of Shanghai, since March, 2014, has allowed corporations to submit digital copies of documents to the customs department to submit goods.³⁶² Lu Xiangqing, the deputy director of customs for the Shanghai Waigaoqiao Free Trade Zone, noted that “nearly 3,400 declaration applications are reviewed daily from the 6,000 enterprises in the Waigaoqiao FTZ, and increase of more than 2,000 businesses” since the establishment of the pilot Free Trade Zone in September 2013.³⁶³ However, similar efforts in other regions within China have not been found.

In May 2014, China co-submitted the “Proposal on Establishing a Capacity Building Plan to Improve Supply Chain Performance” in the Committee on Trade and Investment in the APEC 2014 summit, which emphasizes the mitigation of pre-arrival processing.³⁶⁴

China continues to require pre-shipment inspection for, “imports of waste raw materials and used machinery and electrical products” and “imports of certain commodities related to national security.” This has remain unchanged since 2010.³⁶⁵

China does not require the use of customs brokers, in keeping with the trade-facilitation measures of the Bali package.

³⁶⁰ “Report of the Meeting Held on 5 December 2008” World Trade Organization: Council for Trade in Services (Geneva) 12 December 2008. Date of Access: 7 March 2015.

http://www.jmcti.org/2000round/China/TRM/2008/s_c_m_92.pdf

“Trade Policy Review: Report by the Secretariat on China” World Trade Organization; Trade Policy Review Body (Geneva) 27 May 2014. Date of Access: 6 March 2015. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s300_e.pdf

“Government Report: Trade Policy Regime: Framework And Objectives” World Trade Organization by China, June 2012. Date of Access: 6 March 2015. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp364_e.htm

³⁶¹ “Implementation of APEC’s Area-Specific Transparency Standards” Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, 2007. Date of Access: 15 March 2015. <http://www.apec.org/Groups/Committee-on-Trade-and-Investment/APEC-Transparency-Standards.aspx>

³⁶² “Smart System Boosts Trade Facilitation in FTZ” China (Shanghai) Pilot Free Trade Zone, 23 December, 2014. Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://en.shftz.gov.cn/News-Information/News-update/379.shtml>

³⁶³ “Shanghai FTZ Reviews Paperless Declarations” Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 6 April 2014. Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/counselorsreport/europereport/201404/20140400541447.shtml>

³⁶⁴ “APEC Capacity Building Plan to Improve Supply Chain Performance” APEC Meeting Documents (Quingdao) 14 May 2014. Date of Access: 14 March, 2015. http://mddb.apec.org/Documents/2014/SOM/SOM2/14_som2_049anx07.pdf

³⁶⁵ “Government Report: Trade Policies And Practices By Measure” World Trade Organization (Geneva) 12 June 2014. Date of Access: 11 March, 2015. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/tp364_e.htm

China implements and maintains several of the measures contained in the Bali package, which it began implementing before the current compliance period. But it has not implemented the minimum six measures as required for full compliance. Also, China adheres to both 5.1 and 6.1 of Article 10. Thus, China is awarded the score of 0.

Analyst: Jasper Lim

France: + 1

France has implemented and maintained all of the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines in their totality.

On 1 January 2015, France updated its code des douanes. It includes transparent and electronic published resources containing all information relating to trade procedures, duties, rules, and administrative measures, appeal procedures etc.³⁶⁶ France's Code des douanes also includes common customs procedures and uniform documentation requirements for the release and clearance of goods throughout its territory.³⁶⁷ France has maintained enquiry points on its customs website.³⁶⁸ Enquiry points are also available by phone, email or Twitter.³⁶⁹ All of this information is available on the internet fulfilling the second requirement under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information.³⁷⁰

France fulfills the requirements under Article 3: Advance Rulings as a member of the European Union. The European Union provides information on advance rulings including the requirements for the application, the time period by which it will issue an advance ruling and the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.³⁷¹

France fulfills the requirements under Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods. It has maintained procedures allowing for the submission of import documentation and other required information in order to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods with a view to expediting the release of goods upon arrival. On 1 January 2013, France established an option of electronic payment for transactions exceeding EUR 5,000.³⁷²

France fulfills the requirements under Article 10: Formalities Connected With Importation and Exportation and Transit. France does not require pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation³⁷³ and it has refrained from requiring the use of customs brokers.³⁷⁴

³⁶⁶ Code Des Douanes, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&dateTexte=20150222>

³⁶⁷ Code Des Douanes, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&dateTexte=20150222>

³⁶⁸ Douanes et Droits Indirects, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris). Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.douane.gouv.fr/accueil>

³⁶⁹ Infos Douane Service, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 27 March 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&dateTexte=20150222>

³⁷⁰ Code Des Douanes, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&dateTexte=20150222>

³⁷¹ Renseignement tarifaire contraignant, European Commission (Brussels) 10 April 2015. Date of Access: 30 April 2015 http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/tariff_aspects/classification_goods/index_fr.htm

³⁷² French Customs Revenues Up In 2012, Tax-News (Brussels) 7 March 2013. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://www.tax-news.com/news/French_Customs_Revenues_Up_In_2012____60036.html

³⁷³ Généralités, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015.

France has implemented and maintained all of the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines in their totality. France also adheres to both 5.1 and 6.1 of Article 10. Thus, France has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Hélène Emorine

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment in implementing trade-facilitation and tariff reduction measures consistent with the articles listed in the guidelines including those listed in Article 10.

Under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information, Germany has published the information in an accessible manner. Information concerning importation, exportation, transit procedures, and required forms and documents is present.³⁷⁵ Applied rates of duties, taxes and fees imposed on imports, exports or transit have also been provided. All of the information necessary for publication under Article 1 is present online under the headings private individuals, businesses, travelers' allowances, etc., thus fulfilling the second part of Article 1.³⁷⁶

As a member of the European Union, movement of goods in Germany is already unrestricted in principle. Germany has provided information regarding advanced rulings for tariff classification as outlined in Article 3.³⁷⁷ In addition, the German government, under Article 7, allows pre-arrival processing of goods, and the lodging of documents in electronic format. The option for payment electronically is permitted.³⁷⁸

Within Article 10: Formalities connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit, pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation, and the use of custom brokers are not mandatory.³⁷⁹

In recent months, the German government announced on 2 December 2014, a pledge of EUR1 million to the World Trade Organization's Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund for 2014 to assist developing and least-developed countries to strengthen their trading capacities and

<http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCode.do?idSectionTA=LEGISCTA000006138833&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&dateTexte=20150223>

³⁷⁴ Droit de Communication Particulier à l'Administration Des Douanes, Ministry of the Economy and Finance (Paris) 25 December 2007. Date of Access: 19 February 2015.

http://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/affichCodeArticle.do;jsessionid=AE9066B6A887302A59211EAF6DA85D66.tpdila16v_3?i dArticle=LEGIARTI000018036050&cidTexte=LEGITEXT000006071570&categorieLien=id&dateTexte=20150223

³⁷⁵ Zoll, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

http://www.zoll.de/EN/Home/home_node.html

³⁷⁶ Duties and taxes, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

http://www.zoll.de/EN/Businesses/Movement-of-goods/Import/Duties-and-taxes/duties-and-taxes_node.html

³⁷⁷ Customs Tariff, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.zoll.de/EN/Businesses/Movement-of-goods/Import/Duties-and-taxes/Normal-customs-clearance/Customs-Tariff/customs-tariff.html>

³⁷⁸ Lodging the entry summary declaration and notification of arrival, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.zoll.de/EN/Businesses/Movement-of-goods/Import/Duties-and-taxes/Entry-summary-declaration/Lodging-the-entry-summary-declaration-and-notification-of-arrival/lodging-the-entry-summary-declaration-and-notification-of-arrival_node.html

³⁷⁹ Procedures, German Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin). Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

http://www.zoll.de/EN/Businesses/Movement-of-goods/Import/Procedures/procedures_node.html

participate in the Doha Round more effectively.³⁸⁰ On 9 February 2015, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said at a joint news conference in Washington that it was in Germany's interest to reach a European free trade agreement with the United States, and that Germany would ensure negotiations are pursued.³⁸¹ Germany has since expressed support for a new investment program to restart growth in Europe, adding that further structural reforms and free trade accords must be accompanied with the US and Canada.³⁸²

Germany has implemented or maintained all the measures pertaining to the Bali package as listed under the articles in the guidelines, and for encouraging free trade agreements with North America. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1

Analyst: John Koester

India: -1

India has not complied with the trade-facilitation or miscellaneous measures of the Bali package.

On 14 November 2014, India reached an agreement with the United States on food stock holdings for reducing trade costs by approximately 10% for developed countries and 14% for developing countries. This allows for an easier access to the Indian market while having into consideration food security issues.³⁸³

On 26 January 2015, India informed the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO) that it would appeal to the Appellate Body issues of law and legal interpretation in the panel report that was issued by the United States on March 2012. It contained a complain that India's import prohibition on other countries' agricultural products was inconsistent with international standards of trade.³⁸⁴

On 28 February 2015, Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided a budget for the following year in order to boost the economy. This led to an increase on tariffs of natural gas. Moreover, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley delayed the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) — preventing companies from avoiding taxes — to April 2017.³⁸⁵

Although India has taken action to implement some of the trade-facilitation measures or miscellaneous measures of the Bali package, it failed to comply with at least six requirements of the Bali package. Thus, India obtains a score of -1.

³⁸⁰ Germany pledges EUR 1 million to help developing countries participate in Doha Round, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 6 March 2015.

https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres14_e/pr730_e.htm

³⁸¹ Germany's Merkel says wants European trade agreement with U.S., Reuters (New York) 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 6 March 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/09/europe-trade-merkel-idUSW1N0P002820150209>

³⁸² Merkel calls for reforms at EIB conference, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.dw.de/merkel-calls-for-reforms-at-eib-conference/a-18289640>

³⁸³ Global Trade Deal Coming Soon After U.S.-India Agree, Bloomberg (New York) 14 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-11-14/global-trade-deal-coming-soon-after-u-s-india-agree-wto-says>

³⁸⁴ Dispute Settlement: Dispute DS430 India — Measures Concerning the Importation of Certain Agricultural Products from the United States, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March of 2015.

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds430_e.htm#top

³⁸⁵ Modi's Pro-Growth Budget Keeps India's Subsidies Untouched, Bloomberg (New Delhi) 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-28/modi-diverges-from-india-budget-deficit-path-to-boost-growth>

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the effort to implement or maintain the measures under each of the articles listed in the guidelines.

Under Article 1, Indonesia has partially published required information related to the guidelines online.³⁸⁶ Procedures relating to importation, exportation, transit are available. Indonesia outlines applied rates of duties and taxes, other fees, classification guidelines, and restrictions. Penalty provisions against breaches of trade formalities, appeal procedures, and international agreements are not posted, or are inaccessible. Information is limited as to exclude required forms and documents, and is limited to its translation to other languages and third-party websites.³⁸⁷ For most specialized information contacting the customs office is required.

As to Article 3: Advance Rulings, customs clearance procedure for entry prior to clearance and tariff classification declaration is available on the Mission of Indonesia to the European Communities Website. Indonesia has partially implemented Article 7, but only limited information is available on the procedure for the release of goods.³⁸⁸

As to most of Articles 7 and 10, there is a lack of information published and limited translation and therefore Indonesia's compliance toward those articles cannot be assessed.

In recent months, Indonesia has encouraged world leaders for the implementation of the trade agreement, as a basis to settle the Doha Round of negotiations, and made strides to improve customs procedures to improve foreign relations.³⁸⁹

Indonesia has partially complied with the trade-facilitation agreement commitment in maintaining some of the measures, but failing to address current trade restriction policies and measures during the compliance-monitoring period. Thus, Indonesia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: John Koester

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to implementing the Bali package.

Italy fails to publish the clearance times for imports in a consistent and uniform manner. Moreover, improvement is required to reduce the average clearance time of imported goods, as well as the simplification of procedures regarding imports/exports.³⁹⁰

³⁸⁶ Beacukai, Indonesia Customs (Jakarta). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.beacukai.go.id/www/bcgoid/index.html>

³⁸⁷ Customs Clearance Procedure, Mission of Indonesia to the European Communities (Brussels). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.indonesianmissioneu.org/website/page20379569520030919378945.asp#3>

³⁸⁸ Customs Clearance Procedure, Mission of Indonesia to the European Communities (Brussels). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.indonesianmissioneu.org/website/page20379569520030919378945.asp#3>

³⁸⁹ RI calls for immediate implementation of Bali package, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 25 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/01/25/ri-calls-immediate-implementation-bali-package.html>

³⁹⁰ OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators—Italy, OECD: Better Policies for Better Lives, April 2014, Date of Access: February 28, 2015,

Italy is a member of the European Union (EU). This results in a degree of uniformity of import/export regulations. The full extent is difficult to determine due to the lack of information from Italian government sources.

Given that Italy has not published the pertinent information, there is no record of relevant policies that demonstrate compliance with this commitment. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Kevin Deagle

Japan: 0

Japan has implemented or maintained measures under each of the articles listed in the guidelines, but not in their totality. Japan has adhered fully to Article 10.

Japan fulfilled many of the requirements under Article 1: Publications and Availability of Information, but not in their totality. Japan has established transparent and electronic resources containing information relating to trade procedure, required forms and documents.³⁹¹ Japan has made available the applied rates of duties, taxes, fees and charges for in accordance with import or export.³⁹² Japan also provides rules for classification or valuation of products for customs purposes, including special agreements with countries regarding trade.³⁹³ Japan outlines the laws, regulation and administrative rulings related to rules of origin for trade.³⁹⁴ Japan provides a list of import, export or transit restrictions.³⁹⁵

Japan has not provided penalty provisions against breaches of import or export formalities. Japan has not created an administrative authority for any person with a customs issue. Japan is reliant upon the conditions set out by the Economic Partnership Agreements to settle disputes between states and the Japan Commercial Arbitration Association for commercial disputes.^{396,397}

Japan has some procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.³⁹⁸ All of this information is publically available, including the forms and documents required for import, export and transit. Japan also provides contact information for enquiry points.³⁹⁹

³⁹¹ Trade Control Policy Overview, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 27 February 2015. Date of Access 28 February 2015. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/external_economy/trade_control/index.html

³⁹² Outline of Tariff and Duty Rates System, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 2 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/tariff.htm>

³⁹³ Japan Custom Tariff Schedule, Japan Tariff Association (Tokyo) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. <http://www.kanzei.or.jp/english/statistical/tariff/top/index/e>

³⁹⁴ Outline of Rules of Origin for GSP Scheme in Japan, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 8 January 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. http://www.customs.go.jp/english/origin/rules_of_origin_gsp.pdf

³⁹⁵ 2001 Articles Prohibited from Importation, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 5 January 2012. Date of Access: 6 March 2015. http://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/kinseihin/2001_e.htm

³⁹⁶ Settlement of Disputes Between States, Improvement of the Business Environment, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 23 September 2012. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/report/downloadfiles/2012WTO/03_08.pdf

³⁹⁷ Japan Commercial Arbitration Association International Commercial Mediation Rules, Japan Commercial Arbitration Association (Tokyo) 1 January 2009. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.jcaa.or.jp/e/mediation/docs/rules.pdf>

³⁹⁸ Tariff Quota, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 4 January 2012. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. <http://www.customs.go.jp/tokyo/english/yubin/kanwari.htm>

³⁹⁹ Inquiry, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 6 January 2013. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. http://www.customs.go.jp/question_e.htm

Under Article 3: Advanced Rulings, Japan has an Advance Classification Ruling System and provides information on the documents provided and the format necessary. It does not give a time period by which it will issue an advance ruling but does give the length of time the advance ruling is valid.⁴⁰⁰

Japan has fulfilled the requirements of Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods. Japan also maintained procedures allowing for the submission of import documentation to begin processing prior to the arrival of goods to expedite their release on arrival.⁴⁰¹ This includes the advance lodging of documents in electronic format for pre-arrival processing. Electronic payment is available for duties, taxes, fees and charges.⁴⁰² Finally, under Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit, Japan does not require the use of customs brokers or pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.⁴⁰³

Japan has implemented or maintained measures under each of the articles listed in the guidelines, but not in their totality. Japan has adhered fully to Article 10. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anna Hobenadel

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to implement and/or maintain all of the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines.

Korea fulfills the requirements under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information under the Bali package. The Korea Customs Service (KCS) agency has importation, exportation, and transit procedures published on their website, along with the required documentation and forms.^{404,405,406} The customs website also has a search engine that allows for the search of all applicable import, export, and transit rates and duties, along with the fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies, including the distinctions between countries.⁴⁰⁷ Korea also provides the rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes,⁴⁰⁸ as well as laws, regulations, and

⁴⁰⁰ Advance Classification Ruling System, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 8 January 2013. Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www.customs.go.jp/english/c-answer_e/imtsukan/1202_e.htm

⁴⁰¹ Outline of Tariff and Duty Rates System, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 2 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/tariff.htm>

⁴⁰² Outline of Tariff and Duty Rates System, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 2 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/tariff.htm>

⁴⁰³ Details of Japan Customs Valuation System, Japan Customs (Tokyo) 5 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.customs.go.jp/english/summary/value_details.htm

⁴⁰⁴ Import Customs System, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001332&layoutMenuNo=21051

⁴⁰⁵ Flow chart of the export customs, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001337&layoutMenuNo=21057

⁴⁰⁶ Customs Declaration Form, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001321&layoutMenuNo=21034

⁴⁰⁷ KCS Tariff D/B(Inquiry), Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

<http://english.customs.go.kr/kcshome/tariff/CustomsTariffList.do?layoutMenuNo=21025>

⁴⁰⁸ The Method of Deciding Taxable Value, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001343&layoutMenuNo=21065

administrative rulings of general application regarding the rules of origin,⁴⁰⁹ including the procedure of how to prove the origin.⁴¹⁰ Korea provides information of restricted or prohibited items for exports and imports along with the penalty provisions for the associated formality breaches.^{411,412,413,414} Korea also provides the detailed procedure of its customs appeals process on its Customs Act.⁴¹⁵ The KCS publishes its free trade agreements along with the associated tariff quota administrations when applicable.^{416,417} All of this information is available on the internet, including the availability of a question-and-answer section that accepts inquiries from the general public on the KCS website.⁴¹⁸

Korea maintains its advance rulings information availability measures as presented on the KCS website in accordance to Article 3: Advanced Rulings of the Bali Package.⁴¹⁹

On an April 2014 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Co-operation (OECD), Korea was shown to have trade facilitator indicators that were significantly better than the OECD average in the areas of appeal procedures, simplification and harmonization of documents, automation, border agency cooperation (internal and external) and was on par with the average for information availability, advance rulings, streamlining of procedures and governance and impartiality. Korea's performance on the involvement of the trade community, fees, and charges showed to be below average. Among the suggested improvements proposed by the OECD were an increase in fees transparency and an increase in the percentage of import and export documents submitted to customs that would benefit from pre-arrival processing, as recommended on Article 7: Release and

⁴⁰⁹ Labeling System of Country of Origin, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001342&layoutMenuNo=21063

⁴¹⁰ Procedures for Proving the Origin, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001324&layoutMenuNo=21040

⁴¹¹ Checking the conditions of import and export, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001340&layoutMenuNo=21061

⁴¹² Protection of Intellectual Property, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001341&layoutMenuNo=21062

⁴¹³ Drug crime, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001346&layoutMenuNo=21070

⁴¹⁴ Security Hazard Articles, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001351&layoutMenuNo=21075

⁴¹⁵ Customs Act, Korea Customs Service (Daejon) 2001. Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://export.gov/southkorea/static/Customs%20Act_Latest_eg_kr_029661.pdf

⁴¹⁶ KOREA-US FTA, Korea Customs Service (Daejon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000002365&layoutMenuNo=23273

⁴¹⁷ KOREA-ASEAN FTA, Korea Customs Service (Daejon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000002361&layoutMenuNo=23269

⁴¹⁸ Information Plaza, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

<http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/qna/QnaList.do?layoutMenuNo=21035>

⁴¹⁹ HS Code, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000002333&layoutMenuNo=23255

Clearance of Goods of the Bali Package.⁴²⁰ The KCS outlines the methods of electronic payment of tax and tariff fees on their agency website.⁴²¹

Korea has not made any alterations to its decision of not requiring the use of customs brokers for cargo processing and paperwork, as well as not requiring the use of pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation, in compliance with Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit of the Bali Package guidelines.⁴²²

Korea has maintained its measures that aim at trade facilitation and the reduction of administrative costs and waiting times for multilateral trade. These measures are also aimed at enhancing the predictability and transparency of customs procedures. Korea has participated in trade-facilitation negotiations by submitting and co-sponsoring proposals on topics in areas such as Single Window, release time of goods, and risk management together with the World Trade Organization (WTO).⁴²³

According to the WTO's South Korea Trade Policy Review, Korea attaches high priority to making its trade laws transparent and readily available, including to foreigners, with many laws available in English on internet websites maintained by the relevant ministries and agencies.⁴²⁴

South Korea was one of the first countries to automate customs procedures and has one of the least expensive documentation and customs cost in the world, USD70 per 20-foot equivalent unit (TEU), contrasting to USD195 per TEU which is the median among countries with Single Window options. Korea's Single Window program allowed for the reduction on license approval time which contributed to a reduction of 25-33% in total export time.⁴²⁵

Korea has maintained most of the measures in compliance with the articles present in the Bali package, including those listed in Article 10, however, it has not taken effective steps to further optimize its electronic pre-arrival processing documentation availability. Therefore, Korea has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Artur Pereira

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the trade-facilitation or miscellaneous measures of the Bali package.

On 23 September 2014, the four members of the Pacific Alliance — Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru — met in New York City to discuss the integration of the alliance into the global market. The

⁴²⁰ OECD Trade Facilitation Indicators – Korea, OECD Trade and Agriculture Directorate (Paris), April 2014. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tad/facilitation/korea-oecd-trade-facilitation-indicators-april-2014.pdf>

⁴²¹ Tax Payment, Korea Customs Service (Deajeon). Date of Access: 10 April 2015.

http://www.customs.go.kr/kcshome/main/content/ContentView.do?contentId=CONTENT_ID_000001344&layoutMenuNo=21066

⁴²² Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Adjustments to Information Technology (IT) in Trade Facilitation: The South Korean Experience, Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (Seoul), January 2009. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. <http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/AWP%20No.%2061.pdf>

⁴²³ Full report - World Trade Organization, World Trade Organization (Seoul), 15 August 2012. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/g268_e.doc

⁴²⁴ Trade Policy Review: Republic of Korea, World Trade Organization Secretariat (Seoul), 21 September 2012. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/tpr_e/s268_sum_e.pdf

⁴²⁵ Enabling Trade: Catalysing Trade Facilitation Agreement Implementation in Brazil, World Economic Forum (Geneva), January 2015. Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEFUSA_EnablingTrade_Brazil_Report2015.pdf

President of Mexico Enrique Peña Nieto confirmed that the member countries have reached an agreement which entails eliminating tariffs for 92% of goods. This will provide easier interaction between the countries.⁴²⁶

On 4 February 2015, Mexico's stock exchange Bolsa Mexicana de Valores provided investors with the ability to trade stocks from Latin American countries such as Peru and Colombia over a single platform. The Chief Executive Officer Jose-Oriol Bosch explains that this opens Mexican market to new opportunities due to the Latin American Integrated Market (MILA) — it puts the stocks of Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Chile under the same framework.⁴²⁷

Although Mexico implemented some of the trade-facilitation measures or miscellaneous measures of the Bali package, it only maintained six requirements of the Bali package. Thus, Mexico obtains a score of 0.

Analyst: Arturo Sparks

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

The Eurasian Economic Commission website contains all the information under Article 1, including:

- Importation, exportation and transit procedures and required forms and documents.⁴²⁸
- Applied rates of duties and taxes of any kind imposed on or in connection with importation or exportation, and fees and charges imposed by or for governmental agencies on or in connection with importation, exportation or transit, procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas, and rules for the classification or valuation of products for customs purposes.⁴²⁹
- Laws, regulations and administrative rulings of general application relating to rules of origin.⁴³⁰
- Import, export or transit restrictions or prohibitions.⁴³¹
- Penalty provisions against breaches of import, export or transit formalities and appeal procedures.⁴³²

⁴²⁶ The Presidents of the Pacific Alliance in New York City, Alianza Pacifico (New York) 23 September 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015 <http://alianzapacifico.net/en/the-presidents-of-the-pacific-alliance-in-new-york-city/>

⁴²⁷ Mexico Bourse CEO Open to Brazil Talks as MILA Focus Remains, Bloomberg (Mexico City) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 2 March 2015 <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-04/mexico-exchange-ceo-open-to-brazil-talks-as-focus-stays-on-mila>

⁴²⁸ Notification form, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/docs/Pages/notiform.aspx>.

⁴²⁹ Common Customs Tariff of the Customs Union, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/act/trade/catr/ett/Pages/default.aspx>.

⁴³⁰ Technical Regulation and Accreditation Department, Regulatory framework, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/act/texnreg/deptexreg/normbaza/Pages/normbaza.aspx>.

⁴³¹ Single list of goods subject to prohibitions or restrictions on import or export by the Customs Union member states within the EurAsEC when trading with third countries and Provisions on application of restrictions, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/act/trade/catr/nontariff/Pages/ediny_perechen.aspx.

- Agreements or parts thereof with any country or countries relating to importation, exportation or transit.⁴³³

As for the Article 3, the Eurasian Commission website does not contain information on the time period by which it will issue an advance ruling and the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.

The Eurasian Commission website provides for the opportunity to fill the notification form online, thus, conforming to the rules set out in the Article 7.⁴³⁴

The Eurasian Economic Union does not maintain measures requiring the use of pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation or the mandatory use of customs brokers.

Russia, being a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, maintains measures under each of the articles listed in the guidelines, but not in their totality. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of 0 for partially complying with the commitment.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: –1

Saudi Arabia has failed to implement or maintain measures under Article 3: Advance Rulings and Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods.

Saudi Arabia fulfills the requirements under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information under the Bali package. Saudi Arabia has maintained transparent and electronic published resources containing all information relating to trade procedures, duties, rules, administrative measures, appeal procedures etc.⁴³⁵ Saudi Arabia has maintained enquiry points on its website and by telephone.⁴³⁶ All this information is available on the internet fulfilling the second requirement under Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information.⁴³⁷

Saudi Arabia does not fulfill the requirements under Article 3: Advance Rulings. It has not published the requirements for the application for an advance ruling, the time period by which it will issue an advance ruling or the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.⁴³⁸

⁴³² Agreement on modalities of criminal and administrative penalties for breaching customs laws of the Customs Union or members thereof, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/docs/Download.aspx?IsDlg=0&ID=4193&print=1>.

⁴³³ International agreements, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

[https://docs.eaeunion.org/en-us/Pages/AllDocuments.aspx#npbdocumentbelongstaxId=\[{%22id%22:%22b591e83f-0f9a-4fce-8760-758ac7690c84%22,%22title%22:%22%D0%9C%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B4%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B5%20%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%8B%22}\]](https://docs.eaeunion.org/en-us/Pages/AllDocuments.aspx#npbdocumentbelongstaxId=[{%22id%22:%22b591e83f-0f9a-4fce-8760-758ac7690c84%22,%22title%22:%22%D0%9C%D0%B5%D0%B6%D0%B4%D1%83%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%80%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D1%8B%D0%B5%20%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%8B%22}]).

⁴³⁴ Notification form, Eurasian Economic Commission. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

<http://www.eurasiancommission.org/en/docs/Pages/notiform.aspx>.

⁴³⁵ Laws and Regulations, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Riyadh) 5 February 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://mci.gov.sa/en/LawsRegulations/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴³⁶ Contact Us, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Riyadh) 8 December 2013. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://mci.gov.sa/en/ContactUs/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴³⁷ Laws and Regulations, Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Riyadh) 5 February 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://mci.gov.sa/en/LawsRegulations/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴³⁸ Rules and Regulations of Saudi Customs, Ministry of Finance (Riyadh) 2011. Date of Access: 30 April 2015

Saudi Arabia does not fulfill the requirements under Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods. It has not adopted procedures allowing for pre-arrival processing⁴³⁹ and has not established an option of electronic payment for duties, taxes, fees and charges collected by customs incurred upon importation or exportation.⁴⁴⁰

Saudi Arabia fulfills the requirements under Article 10: Formalities Connected With Importation and Exportation and Transit. Saudi Arabia does not require pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.⁴⁴¹ It also has not introduced the mandatory use of custom brokers.⁴⁴²

Saudi Arabia has not implemented the measures under any of the articles listed in the guidelines. Thus, Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Hélène Emorine

South Africa: +1

South Africa has implemented or maintained all the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines including those of Article 10.

South Africa has published the required information as required by Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information of Information.⁴⁴³ South Africa has established transparent and electronic published resources containing information relating to trade procedures and required forms and documents. The South African customs administration offers a comprehensive traveler processing document, and several other resources, that outline the external directives for traveler processing and customs administration.⁴⁴⁴ Published online are the importation, exportation and transit procedures, as well as applied rates of duties, taxes and fees of any kind.⁴⁴⁵ Penalties and appeal procedures against decisions are provided.⁴⁴⁶

From Article 3, procedures for advanced rulings are described in a detailed manner. Applications for advance rulings are done through eFiling. A number of resources are available to assist individuals?

http://www.customs.gov.sa/CustomsNew/rules/sRules_E.aspx

⁴³⁹ General Requirements of Import, Ministry of Finance (Riyadh). Date of Access: 25 February 2015

http://www.customs.gov.sa/CustomsNew/rules/sUnitedRulesDetails_E.aspx?ch_id=5&chname=Importation%20and%20Exportation

⁴⁴⁰ Explanation of Payment Method For Transaction Value of Imported or Exported Goods, Ministry of Finance (Riyadh). Date of Access: 25 February 2015.

http://www.customs.gov.sa/CustomsNew/advice/ETameemDetails.aspx?RecordId=1&Search_Str=payment

⁴⁴¹ Principles for Application of the Customs Tariff, Ministry of Finance (Riyadh). Date of Access: 25 February 2015.

http://www.customs.gov.sa/CustomsNew/rules/sItemDetail_E.aspx?chid=2&chname=Principles%20for%20Application%20of%20the%20Customs%20Tariff

⁴⁴² Customs Broker, Ministry of Finance (Riyadh). Date of Access: 25 February 2015.

http://www.customs.gov.sa/customsnew/rules/sItemDetail_E.aspx?chid=10&clid=0&Search_Str=brokers

⁴⁴³ Customs & Excise, SARS (Pretoria) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴⁴⁴ Processing, SARS (Pretoria) 26 February 2013. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Processing/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴⁴⁵ Customs & Excise, SARS (Pretoria) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴⁴⁶ Processing, SARS (Pretoria) 26 February 2013. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Processing/Pages/default.aspx>

applications that list the requirements, the time period, and the length of time for which the advance ruling is valid.⁴⁴⁷

South Africa follows Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods, by allowing for the processing of goods before their arrival and the lodging of documents in electronic format.⁴⁴⁸ A number of electronic payment methods are available for duties, taxes, fees, and charges collected by the customs.⁴⁴⁹ South Africa has also met the condition of not requiring pre-shipment inspections and customs brokers according to Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit.⁴⁵⁰

Since 2000, South Africa had in place duties against imports of certain US chicken products. Though South Africa and the US are working together on a program for increased market access between the two respective nations, South Africa has been reluctant in receding its trade barriers.⁴⁵¹

South Africa has implemented and maintained all the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: John Koester

Turkey: -1

Turkey has failed to comply with its commitment to implement the Bali package.

No conclusive information is available from the Government of Turkey verifying that it has complied with and/or implemented any of the trade and miscellaneous measures of the Bali package.

Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Nour Chehabeddine

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with all the measures under the articles listed in the guidelines including those listed in Article 10.

The UK has fulfilled all of the requirements for Article 1: Publication and Availability of Information. It has established transparent and electronic published resources containing information relating to trade procedures and required forms and documents.⁴⁵² It also provides the applied rates of duties, taxes, fees and charges in relation to imports, exports and transit.⁴⁵³ It also provides information on

⁴⁴⁷ Rulings, SARS (Pretoria) 16 April 2014. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/Legal/TaxAdmin/Pages/Rulings.aspx>

⁴⁴⁸ Pre-Assessment, SARS (Pretoria) 26 February 2013. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Processing/Pre-assessment/Pages/default.aspx>

⁴⁴⁹ Make a payment, SARS (Pretoria) 1 April 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Individuals/How-Pay/Pages/Payment.aspx>

⁴⁵⁰ Tariff, SARS (Pretoria) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.

<http://www.sars.gov.za/ClientSegments/Customs-Excise/Pages/Tariff.aspx>

⁴⁵¹ South Africa, US Seek Solution on Poultry Row Ahead of AGOA Renewal, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (Geneva) 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges/news/south-africa-us-seek-solution-on-poultry-row-ahead-of-agoa-renewal>

⁴⁵² Trading in the EU, UK Trade and Investment (London) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/trading-in-the-eu>

⁴⁵³ Trade Tariff Tool, UK Trade and Investment (London) 9 March 2015. Date of Access: 9 March 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/trade-tariff/sections>

the rules for classification or valuation of products for customs purposes.⁴⁵⁴ It provides the laws, regulations and administrative rulings for rules of origin or trade agreements with various countries.⁴⁵⁵ The country also provides an extensive list of the import, export and transit restrictions or prohibitions.⁴⁵⁶ The UK publishes penalty provisions against breaches of import, export or transit formalities.⁴⁵⁷ Individuals with customs issues have the right to administrative appeal by an authority higher than the office that issued the decision through the Tax Tribunal.⁴⁵⁸ The UK also provides information and procedures relating to the administration of tariff quotas.⁴⁵⁹ All this information is available on the internet, including all the forms and documents required for trade. The UK has also maintained an enquiry point to answer reasonable questions of governments, traders and interested parties regarding trade procedures or to comment on the introduction or amendment of laws regarding trade.⁴⁶⁰

Under Article 3: Advance Ruling, the UK has established a program for binding tariff information rulings. The information provided gives the requirements for a ruling, including the information needed and the format, the time period it will be issued and the length of time the ruling will be valid.⁴⁶¹

The UK has also fulfilled the requirements of Article 7: Release and Clearance of Goods. Through the Single Administrative Document, the UK has allowed for the submission of import documentation to begin processing prior to the arrival of the goods.⁴⁶² The requirements necessary are different for European Union member and non-EU members. This includes the length of time it will take to issue a ruling and the length of time it is valid. The UK also offers the option of electronic payment for duties and fees collection by customs during import and export.⁴⁶³

Finally, the UK has fulfilled the requirements under Article 10: Formalities Connected with Importation and Exportation and Transit. The use of a customs broker for trade is optional but not

⁴⁵⁴ Classify Imports and Exports using the UK Trade Tariff, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 13 June 2013. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/browse/business/imports-exports/classification-of-goods>

⁴⁵⁵ Rules of Origin for Imported and Exported Goods, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 13 June 2013. Date of Access: 8 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/rules-of-origin>

⁴⁵⁶ Current Arms Embargoes and Other Restrictions, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (London) 11 September 2014. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/current-arms-embargoes-and-other-restrictions>

⁴⁵⁷ Archiving your Trade Documents, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 14 June 2014. Date of Access 8 March 2015. <https://www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk/content/penalty-regimes-and-archiving-your-international-trade-documents>

⁴⁵⁸ Appeal to the Tax Tribunal, Government of United Kingdom (London) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/tax-tribunal>

⁴⁵⁹ Duty Suspensions and Tariff Quotas, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (London) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/duty-suspensions-and-tariff-quotas>

⁴⁶⁰ Removing Trade Barriers for UK Exporters, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (London) 9 October 2012. Date of Access 27 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/removing-trade-barriers-for-uk-exporters>

⁴⁶¹ Binding Tariff Information Rulings, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 12 February 2004. Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/binding-tariff-information-rulings#page-navigation>

⁴⁶² The Single Administrative Document for Import and Export, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 13 June 2013. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/declarations-and-the-single-administrative-document>

⁴⁶³ Log in to use VAT Online Services, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 3 February 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/send-vat-return>

mandatory.⁴⁶⁴ Pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and custom valuation are not required.⁴⁶⁵

The UK has implemented or maintained all the measures in the Bali package under the articles listed in the guidelines including those listed in Article 10. Thus, The United Kingdom is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anna Hobenadel

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to implement the Bali package.

The US complies to the maintenance of transparent and electronic published resources containing information relating to trade procedures, duties, rules, administrative measures, appeal procedures, etc.⁴⁶⁶

The US Customs and Border Protection website features a helpful question-and-answer tool that addresses the questions other traders, or interested parties might have regarding trade-related matters.

Any person to whom customs issues an administrative decision is entitled to submit an administrative appeal of initial determination to the government, under Title 19, Chapter I, Part 103, Subpart A, Section 103.7 of the US Code of Federal Regulations.⁴⁶⁷

According to the US Customs and Border Protection agency, the necessary documents can only be obtained no more than a week prior to the expected arrival of goods in port; processing of documents takes at minimum 16 working hours.⁴⁶⁸

The US Customs and Border Protection agency possesses a number of interactive contact options on their website, including a live chat feature, a phone number, and address.

Electronic payment of customs fees is made possible by the Automated Clearinghouse Credit, which allows users to pay their fees online.

The US maintains a number of documents and regulations that ensure common customs procedures and uniform documentation requirements across the country.⁴⁶⁹

The US allows importers to make entry on their own without the use of customs brokers, but acknowledge that many first time importers and exporters consult a licensed customs broker.⁴⁷⁰

⁴⁶⁴ The Single Administrative Document for Import and Export, HM Revenue and Customs (London) 13 June 2013. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/declarations-and-the-single-administrative-document>

⁴⁶⁵ Open Individual Export Licenses, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (London) 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/open-individual-export-licences>

⁴⁶⁶ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, About Foreign Trade Zones and Contact Info (Washington) Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cbp.gov/border-security/ports-entry/cargo-security/cargo-control/foreign-trade-zones/about>

⁴⁶⁷ Cornell University Law School, 19 CFR 103.7- Administrative Appeal of Initial Determination (Ithica) 22 March 1999. Date of Access: February 28, 2015, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/19/103.7>

⁴⁶⁸ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Filing a Formal Entry, (Washington) 14 May 2014. [https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/214/~/filing-a-formal-entry-\(for-goods-valued-at-\\$2500-or-more\)](https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/214/~/filing-a-formal-entry-(for-goods-valued-at-$2500-or-more))

⁴⁶⁹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Customs Procedures, (Washington) Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cbp.gov/trade/nafta/customs-procedures>

The US does not require pre-shipment inspections in relation to tariff classification and customs valuation.⁴⁷¹

While the US does not employ public stockholding practices for food security purposes, it nonetheless provides its domestic farmers with massive subsidies that have been charged with distorting international trade by the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (WTO).⁴⁷² The US stands as one of the major parties in the disagreement between developed and developing nations regarding the public stockholding program. Its performance on this issue is mixed.

The US Customs and Border Protection agency keeps up-to-date reports of the fill-rates of for tariff quotas as well as giving the date and time of quotas already filled. It includes a current graph report, year-end reports, a fill list for trade preference levels and tariff rate quotas, and a historical fill list for trade preference levels.⁴⁷³

The recent trade agreement aimed at reducing trade barriers between the US and the African states of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda is a promising step towards the development of a process to develop positive agreements regarding imports with least-developed countries.

The United States currently adheres to many of the Bali declarations, especially regarding transparency, accessibility of information, and accountability.

Important trade issues are easily accessible electronically on the US Customs and Border Protection Agency and on the Office of the US Trade Representative website.

The United States recently signed trade agreements with the African states of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda in a bid to promote free trade and to reduce barriers to trade between the US and the East African Community trading bloc. The agreement commits stakeholder countries to undertake customs reforms as recommended under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement in Bali and the G20 summit.⁴⁷⁴

Additionally, the US launched a new phase of the National Export Initiative in May 2014 to streamline the country's own import/export process in addition to negotiating new access and building the trade capacity of developing countries.⁴⁷⁵

Alternatively, trade disputes with China in the technology industry have led to instances of protectionism between the two states.⁴⁷⁶

⁴⁷⁰ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Tips for New Importers and Exporters (Washington) 14 May 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cbp.gov/trade/basic-import-export/importer-exporter-tips>

⁴⁷¹ export.gov, International Logistics: When is Pre-Shipment Inspection Required? (Washington) Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.export.gov/logistics/eg_main_018120.asp

⁴⁷² Public Stockholding Programmes for Food Security Face Uphill Struggle, Inter Press Service News Agency (Geneva) 17 July 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ipsnews.net/2014/07/public-stockholding-programmes-for-food-security-face-uphill-struggle/>

⁴⁷³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Commodity Graph Reports and Tariff Preference Levels (Washington) Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cbp.gov/trade/quota/tariff-rate-quotas>

⁴⁷⁴ U.S. Moves Towards Greater Trade With Africa, Wall Street Journal (New York) 26 February 2015, Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-moves-toward-greater-trade-with-africa-1424961276>

⁴⁷⁵ National Export Initiative, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) Date of Access: February 28, 2015, <https://ustr.gov/nei#>

Moreover, the subsidies provided by the US to its domestic farmers stands as another major obstacle to the achievement of the Bali proposals.⁴⁷⁷ However, As of November 13, 2014, the US and India reached an agreement on the issue of agriculture that allows for the full implementation of the Bali agreements.⁴⁷⁸

The United States has implemented all major aspects of the Bali package. Thus the United States is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Kevin Deagle

European Union: -1

The European Union has failed to comply with its commitment to implement the Bali package.

The EU has provided an “Export Helpdesk” page on the European Commission website that provides information regarding customs procedures with non-EU trading partners. According to the website: “These rules ensure that customs practices in all EU countries are uniform and transparent.”⁴⁷⁹ These initiatives are in accordance with Article 1 and Article 2 of the Agreement on Trade Facilitation.

The EU has created the binding tariff information (BTI) system to help clients obtain advance rulings, or tariff classifications, for imports and exports into the EU.⁴⁸⁰ The BTI system satisfies Article 3.6 of the agreement.

The EU also requires pre-arrival and pre-departure declarations to provide customs authorities with information prior to the shipment of goods into or out of the EU, thus satisfying Article 7.1.1 of the agreement.⁴⁸¹

The EU has imposed some pre-shipment controls and entry port restrictions for over 500 categories of goods until the end of 2015.⁴⁸² This is contrary to Article 10.5.1 of the agreement.

The European Union has failed to satisfy Article 10.5.1. Thus, the EU is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Nour Chehabeddine

⁴⁷⁶ Mutual Suspicion Mars Tech Trade With China, The New York Times (New York) February 27, 2015, Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/28/technology/in-china-suspicions-cloud-trade-dispute-involving-tech-companies.html?_r=0

⁴⁷⁷ AGOA's Final Frontier: Removing US Farm Trade Barriers. Centre for Global Development (Washington) 28 July 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/agoa-final-frontier-removing-us-farm-trade-barriers.pdf>

⁴⁷⁸ Statement by Ambassador Froman on U.S.-India WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 13 November 2014. Date of Access: February 28, 2015. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2014/November/Statement-by-Ambassador-Froman-on-US-India-WTO-Trade-Facilitation-Agreement>

⁴⁷⁹ EU Import Procedures (Brussels) 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. http://exporthelp.europa.eu/thdapp/display.htm?jsessionid=440DC902B4CB2863EB5BAE70C37DCC01?page=rt%2Frt_EUImportProcedures.html&docType=main&languageId=en.

⁴⁸⁰ Binding Tariff Information (Brussels) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/customs_duties/tariff_aspects/classification_goods/index_en.htm

⁴⁸¹ Pre Arrival/Pre Departure Declarations (Brussels) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/customs/procedural_aspects/general/prearrival_predeparture/index_en.htm.

⁴⁸² Import licenses and pre-shipment controls (Brussels) 7 November 2013. Date of Access: 7 March 2015. http://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=135445&version=4.

5. Labour and Employment: Youth Unemployment

“We are strongly committed to reducing youth unemployment, which is unacceptably high, by acting to ensure young people are in education, training or employment.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	+0.75		

Background

Commitments to curb rising global rates of youth unemployment have been included in many recent G20 summits. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates there are approximately 202 million unemployed people globally, 40% are youth.⁴⁸³ The rate of youth participation in the workforce has severely declined across multiple G20 states within the last decade.⁴⁸⁴ To boost the workforce participation rate, initiatives must be made to encourage youth contribution and allow youth to have good start in life. The ILO has identified that countries which develop and implement robust youth-specific employment strategies that encourage youth to engage in the formal economy have better outcomes for their men and women.⁴⁸⁵ This can be done with access to quality education, training, and opportunities for gainful employment which will allow for a smooth transition into the

⁴⁸³ Youth Employment. International Labour Organization. Date of Access: 01 February 2015.

<http://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>

⁴⁸⁴ Millennium Development Goals Indicators: Youth Unemployment. 2014. Date of Access: 01 February 2015.

<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/SeriesDetail.aspx?srid=597>

⁴⁸⁵ Why youth employment matters beyond 2015. International Labour Organization. 2015. Date of Access: 01 February 2015.

http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/video/video-interviews/WCMS_342144/lang--en/index.htm

labour market. Furthermore, the G20 members have recognized that current commitments to the reduction of youth unemployment are not enough and must become a focus for the 2015 cycle.⁴⁸⁶

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 members support and create new policies. To judge compliance, young people are defined according to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals indicators and ILO definitions as individuals between the ages of 15 and 24.⁴⁸⁷

In the 10-11 September 2014 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration the ministers recognized the need to boost participation in the workforce, specifically identifying the need to promote youth employment across all member countries and renewing their commitment to fight youth unemployment.⁴⁸⁸ As identified by the Minister's Meeting, commitments will be focused on increased support of existing policies or the development of new programs to support an increase in youth employment. The commitment will consist of three components: governments must make efforts to improve the educational attainment of the labour force, provide training programs to youth, and create new employment opportunities for youth populations. Examples of such policies include:

Acts to improve the educational attainment of the youth labour force, drawing on the International Standard Classification of Education used by the ILO⁴⁸⁹

- Improvements to funding in secondary education programs improving subject specialization and presentation of new materials
- Encourage the inclusion of more of the youth population into universities, colleges, higher professional schools and distance learning institutions
- Highlight the need to promote investments in education for different population groups in response to the distribution of educational resources
- Provide financial incentives for education whether in the form of grants, bursaries or scholarships

Acts to improve the training programs and skills of youth populations

- Encourage the improvements or creation of apprenticeship programs, or the development of vocational programs for youth populations
- The inclusion of policies which support youth guarantees

⁴⁸⁶ G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration Melbourne, 10-11 September 2014: Preventing structural unemployment, creating better jobs and boosting participation. Date of Access: 01 February 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/Communique_Meeting_of_G20_LEMs_Melbourne_10-11_September_2014.pdf

⁴⁸⁷ Guide to the new Millennium Development Goals Employment Indicators. International Labour Organization. 2009. Date of Access: 01 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/download/mdg_en.pdf

⁴⁸⁸ G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration Melbourne, 10-11 September 2014: Preventing structural unemployment, creating better jobs and boosting participation. Date of Access: 01 February 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/Communique_Meeting_of_G20_LEMs_Melbourne_10-11_September_2014.pdf

⁴⁸⁹ The Youth Employment Network. International Labour Organization. 2011. Date of Access: February 2 2015. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/employment/yen/whatwedo/projects/indicators/8.htm>

Acts to create new employment opportunities for youth populations

- Work to promote youth entrepreneurship and innovation across multiple sectors
- Encourage opportunities for youths in public sector organizations at different levels of government or within the private sector

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not recognize the issue of youth unemployment and does not show a commitment to ensure young people are in education, training OR employment.
0	Member shows a commitment to improving youth employment conditions through national actions that improve youth access to education, training OR employment.
+1	Member shows an active commitment to reducing youth unemployment through the implementation of programs that ensure young people are in education, training AND employment.

Lead Analyst: Derek Cuddington

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 26 February 2015 Minister of Education Alberto Sileoni and Attorney General Alejandra Gils Carbó signed an agreement to extend the “Plan de Finalización de Estudios Primarios y Secundarios para Jóvenes y Adultos” or “FinEs” (Plan to Finalize Primary and Secondary Studies for Youth and Adults).⁴⁹⁰ Established in 2008, the “FinEs” program has resulted in the graduation of more than 513,000 students. Another 1,800,000 students are currently registered.⁴⁹¹

On January 15 2015 the World Bank approved a loan of US425 million, with a 32.5-year maturity period and a seven-year grade period, to support Argentina’s Youth Employment Support Project.⁴⁹² This project aims to promote quality employment opportunities for 540,000 young adults living in vulnerable socioeconomic conditions.⁴⁹³ The project will finance activities over a three-year implementation period.⁴⁹⁴ This project aims to: 1) improve the quality of guiding and training services; 2) consolidate the coverage of Jóvenes con Más y Mejor Trabajo (Youth with Greater and Better Job

⁴⁹⁰ Ministerio de Educación, Sileoni y Gils Carbó firmaron convenio para ampliar el Plan de Finalización de Estudios Primarios y Secundarios (FinEs) (Beunos Aires) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://portal.educacion.gov.ar/prensa/gacetillas-y-comunicados/sileoni-y-gils-carbo-firmaron-convenio-para-ampliar-el-plan-de-finalizacion-de-estudios-primarios-y-secundarios-fines/>

⁴⁹¹ Ministerio de Educación, Sileoni y Gils Carbó firmaron convenio para ampliar el Plan de Finalización de Estudios Primarios y Secundarios (FinEs) (Beunos Aires) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://portal.educacion.gov.ar/prensa/gacetillas-y-comunicados/sileoni-y-gils-carbo-firmaron-convenio-para-ampliar-el-plan-de-finalizacion-de-estudios-primarios-y-secundarios-fines/>

⁴⁹² W/B Argentina: Job Opportunities for Half a Million Young Adults, The World Bank (Washington) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/01/15/wbargentina-job-opportunities-for-half-a-million-young-adults>

⁴⁹³ World Bank approves projects to continue generating job opportunities for young adults (Buenos Aires) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=2262

⁴⁹⁴ Argentina – Youth Employment Support Program, The World Bank 10 December 2014. Date of Access: February 27 2015. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/12/23/000470435_20141223094317/Rendered/PDF/PAD6220PAD0P13010Box385389B000UO090.pdf

Opportunities program) and the PROGRESAR (Program to Support Students from Argentina); 3) strengthen the performance of the network of 630 employment offices around the country.⁴⁹⁵

The Youth Employment and Support Project will also support the expansion and strengthening of the Youth with Greater and Better Job Opportunities program. This program targets youth from the ages of 18 to 24 that have not completed secondary education.⁴⁹⁶ Approximately 200,000 youth have participated each year since the program's initial launch in 2008.⁴⁹⁷

During the compliance period Argentina has taken actions to improve the educational attainment of the labour force, provide training programs to youth, and create new employment opportunities for youth populations. Thus, Argentina has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Julia Stockdale-Otárol

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 20 November 2014, the Australian government announced a new national employment services system, planned to launch on 1 July 2015.⁴⁹⁸ The Australian government is investing AUD 6.8 billion over four years in its new employment services called “jobactive.” Jobactive was announced in the 2015-16 Budget along with the Growing Jobs and Small Business Package, which is comprised of a range of measures aimed at improving youth employment and education outcomes. The package includes an AUD 331 million Youth Employment Strategy to assist young people who have disengaged from work and study by providing support to vulnerable young job seekers and improving outcomes for early school leavers.

On 3 December 2014, the Australian government introduced amended legislation to the Higher Education and Research Reform Bill 2014, creating a new scholarship fund for universities with high proportions of low socioeconomic status students.⁴⁹⁹ This works to improve the educational attainment of the youth labour force, encouraging the inclusion of disadvantaged and rural students by providing financial incentives for education in the form of scholarships.

On 5 December 2014, the Australian government announced plans to introduce tuition subsidies to all Australian students in participating Australian higher education institutions, beginning 1 January 2016.⁵⁰⁰ The Australian government plans to provide AUD820 million over three years, to support over 80,000 students by 2018. This reform is intended to promote the inclusion of the youth

⁴⁹⁵ World Bank approves projects to continue generating job opportunities for young adults (Buenos Aires) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. http://www.trabajo.gov.ar/ampliado.asp?id_nvd=2262

⁴⁹⁶ W/B Argentina: Job Opportunities for Half a Million Young Adults, The World Bank (Washington) 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/01/15/wbargentina-job-opportunities-for-half-a-million-young-adults>

⁴⁹⁷ Argentina – Youth Employment Support Program, The World Bank 10 December 2014. Date of Access: February 27 2015. http://www-wds.worldbank.org/external/default/WDSContentServer/WDSP/IB/2014/12/23/000470435_20141223094317/Rendered/PDF/PAD6220PAD0P13010Box385389B000UO090.pdf

⁴⁹⁸ Employment Services 2015, Australian Government, Department of Employment (Canberra) 20 November 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://employment.gov.au/employment-services-2015>

⁴⁹⁹ Higher Education and Research Budget Information, Australian Government, Department of Education, 5 December 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://education.gov.au/higher-education-and-research-budget-information>

⁵⁰⁰ Expanding Opportunities for Students, Australian Government, Department of Education, 5 December 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://education.gov.au/expanding-opportunities-students>

population in Australian universities, and form innovative partnerships with Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions.

On 12 December 2014, the Education Council endorsed a new framework to guide the provision of Vocational Education and Training (VET) courses in schools. The framework sets out a vision in which all secondary school students experience quality vocational learning and have access to VET courses seamlessly integrated into secondary schooling. The framework will be followed by the development of a number of practical tools aimed at producing quality outcomes for students, employers, parents, schools and training providers.

On 20 February 2015, the Assistant Minister for Employment reiterated that the Australian government is committed to the new employment services model.⁵⁰¹ The program will introduce new subsidies and incentives to encourage employers to offer opportunities to the youth labour force and other vulnerable groups.

During the compliance period, Australia has taken actions to improve the educational attainment and vocational skills training of the youth labour force, and has worked to create youth employment opportunities. Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alison Dillman

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 16 December 2014 the Minister of Labour and Employment Manoel Dias launched the Jovem Aprendiz do Desporto — Jade (Youth Sports Apprentice Program — Jade) in the federal district.⁵⁰² This program aims to provide more and better training opportunities and decent work for youth in sports institutions. Jade is a professional training program for youth engaged in organizations and companies in the sports sector through the Learning Act.

On 2 February 2015 the Minister of Labour and Employment Manoel Dias participated in a national meeting of technical schools in Rio de Janeiro.⁵⁰³ This four-day event discussed the role of vocational and technical education in the development of the country. Dias announced that it is the Ministry's goal to incorporate 500,000 youth as apprentices in micro and small enterprises through quotas.⁵⁰⁴ Minister Dias also emphasized the encouragement of policies that integrate youth into the workforce.⁵⁰⁵

⁵⁰¹ Statement to Four Corners, Ministers' Media Centre (Sydney) 20 February 2015. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://ministers.employment.gov.au/hartsuyker/statement-4-corners>

⁵⁰² Dias lança Jovem Aprendiz do Desporto no DF, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: February 26 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/ministro-manoel-dias-lanca-jovem-aprendiz-do-desporto-no-df.html>

⁵⁰³ Dias debate políticas para la juventude, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/dias-debate-importancia-das-politicas-educacionais-para-a-juventude.htm>

⁵⁰⁴ Dias debate políticas para la juventude, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/dias-debate-importancia-das-politicas-educacionais-para-a-juventude.htm>

⁵⁰⁵ Dias debate políticas para la juventude, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/dias-debate-importancia-das-politicas-educacionais-para-a-juventude.htm>

On 9 February 2015 the Subcommittee on Decent Work for Youth resumed their preparation of the Plano Nacional de Trabalho Decente para Juventude (National Decent Work Plan for Youth).⁵⁰⁶ The General Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic, through the National Youth Secretariat, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, jointly coordinate the Subcommittee. During the first half of 2015 the Subcommittee is scheduled to finalize the definition of challenges, goals and indicators of the Plan. The main features of the Plan include: (1) more and better education; (2) reconciliation between studies, work, and family life; (3) labour market integration with equal opportunities and treatment; (4) Social Dialogue: Youth, Work and Education.⁵⁰⁷

On 11 February 2015 Minister of Education Cid Gomes and the Minister of Micro and Small Enterprise Guilherme Afif Domingos signed a technical cooperation agreement to develop the Pronatec Aprendiz na Micro e Pequena Empresa (Pronatec Apprentice in Micro and Small Enterprises) initiative.⁵⁰⁸ The initiative is part of the Program for Access to Technical Education and Employment (Pronatec) and will benefit youth ages 14 to 24 years. Youth hired through the apprentice category will receive mandatory education from an accredited Pronatec institution. Upon completion of the learning program — one to two years — students will receive a technical certification.

During the compliance period, Brazil has taken actions to improve the educational attainment of the labour force, provide training programs to youth, and create new employment opportunities for youth populations. Thus, Brazil has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Julia Stockdale-Otárola

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

The Canadian government committed to support job creation in the current Economic Action Plan, with a focus on skills training initiatives.⁵⁰⁹ The Economic Action Plan allocates CAD194 million in 2015 to “training the workforce of tomorrow,” an increase from CAD66 million in 2014. The budget outlines youth employment as a key priority, and commits to support the “Flexibility and Innovation in Apprenticeship” technical training program, the “Canada Accelerator and Incubator” entrepreneurship program, and the “Computers for Schools” information and communications technology skills training program.⁵¹⁰ These programs aim to improve the training and skills of youth populations.

⁵⁰⁶ Subcomitê discute Trabalho Decente para juventude, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/subcomite-discute-trabalho-decente-para-juventude/palavrachave/juventude-trabalho-decente.htm>

⁵⁰⁷ Subcomitê discute Trabalho Decente para juventude, Ministério do Trabalho e Emprego (Brasília) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/subcomite-discute-trabalho-decente-para-juventude/palavrachave/juventude-trabalho-decente.htm>

⁵⁰⁸ Pronatec Jovem Aprendiz apoiará estudantes em microempresas, Governo Federal Brasil (Brasília) 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/educacao/2015/02/pronatec-jovem-aprendiz-apoiara-estudantes-em-microempresas>

⁵⁰⁹ Supporting Jobs and Growth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-0-eng.html>

⁵¹⁰ Connecting Canadians with Available Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-1-eng.html>

The budget allocates CAD8 million in 2015 to “ensuring training reflects labour market needs,” an increase from CAD7 million in 2014.⁵¹¹ Recognizing the challenges facing persons with disabilities in the work force, the budget allocates CAD15 million over three years to the “Ready Willing and Able” initiative to increase the employment of Canadians with developmental disabilities, and CAD11.4 million over four years support persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders, through the expansion of targeted vocational training programs.

In addition to committing to support targeted vocational and skills training programs for youth populations, the budget proposes investments to reform the reserve education system through the *First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act*, in partnership with the First Nations.⁵¹² The Canadian government commits to CAD1.25 billion in education funding beginning in 2016, to provide levels of funding consistent with the current model of provincial education funding. This aims to improve the educational attainment of students enrolled in the reserve education system.

The Economic Action Plan, under the Youth Employment Strategy, proposes to allocate CAD40 million toward supporting 3,000 internships in high-demand fields, and CAD15 million toward supporting 1,000 internships in small and medium-sized Canadian enterprises.⁵¹³ The program is targeted at creating new employment opportunities for recent post-secondary graduates.

The government of Canada proposes a review of the Youth Employment Strategy, to facilitate improvements to programs for youth populations, and ensure effective programs targeting a range of high-demand fields.⁵¹⁴

During the compliance period, Canada has taken actions to improve the educational attainment and vocational skills training of the youth labour force, and has worked to create youth employment opportunities. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alison Dillman

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 19 January 2015, the government of China published the “2014 Ten Actions Plan of Employment.”⁵¹⁵ The government made commitments to improve the educational attainment of youth labour force and the training programs of youth population, helping youth population to find new employment opportunities.⁵¹⁶

⁵¹¹ Supporting Jobs and Growth, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015.

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-0-eng.html>

⁵¹² Connecting Canadians with Available Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015.

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-1-eng.html>

⁵¹³ Connecting Canadians with Available Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015.

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-1-eng.html>

⁵¹⁴ Connecting Canadians with Available Jobs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2014. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015.

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/plan/ch3-1-eng.html>

⁵¹⁵ Ten big issues of 2014 employment in China, China Association for employment promotion (Beijing) 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.zgjy.org/newlist/Jyyearshow.asp?MessageID=1334>

⁵¹⁶ Ten big issues of 2014 employment in China, China Association for employment promotion (Beijing) 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.zgjy.org/newlist/Jyyearshow.asp?MessageID=1334>

In November 2014, Chinese government opened multiple recruitment channels and released information of state-owned enterprises to college graduates.⁵¹⁷ This aims to regulate the recruitment process and guarantee the equal employment rights for all youth.

On 21 November 2014, the Employment Action Plan was implemented in Inner Mongolia.⁵¹⁸

On 5 December 2014, the Employment Action Plan was implemented in Tianjin.⁵¹⁹

In December 2014, China Association of Employment Promotion and Taiwan S.D.S.F Foundation facilitated dialogues between mainland and Taiwan youth about promoting vocational skills and exchanging expertise, combating youth unemployment together.⁵²⁰

On 6 January 2015, the communist Youth League of China and China Mobile has launched a two-year vocational program for youth populations named “Succeed With You,” in response to the “Ten Actions Plan of Employment.” This program plans to provide youths with various training and practical programs and job opportunities.⁵²¹

During the compliance period, China has taken actions to reduce youth unemployment by ensuring educational and training programs and improving employment opportunities. Thus, China has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Celine Liu

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 21 November Prime Minister Manuel Valls described the *plan interministériel de lutte contre le décrochage scolaire* (interministerial plan for fighting against student dropouts) to halve annual school dropout numbers by 2017.⁵²² The plan provides EUR50 million a year to fight against student dropouts.⁵²³ A new focus on prevention and the mobilisation of stakeholders including parents, youth, teachers, public authorities, associations and businesses has been emphasized. This adds to the ongoing student re-entry strategy. A new telephone line was created to provide advice and information about alternative training and support solutions for youth. The implementation of the

⁵¹⁷ Recent reforms and national development, Shanxi Development And Reform Commission (Shanxi) 11 November 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. http://www.sxdr.com.cn/xxlm/bgs/zhd/201411/t20141126_73831.htm

⁵¹⁸ Inner Mongolia: Support 35 million college students for entrepreneurship in four years, NorthNews (Inner Mongolia) 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.northnews.cn/2014/1121/1791742.shtml>

⁵¹⁹ A Notice of Implementation of Action Plan to lead Tianjin college entrepreneurs from 2014-2017, Tianjin Employment Information for University Graduates (Tianjin) 05 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.tjbys.com/news.aspx?id=111>

⁵²⁰ Ten big issues of 2014 employment in China, China Association for employment promotion (Beijing) 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.zgzy.org/newlist/Jyyearshow.asp?MessageID=1334>

⁵²¹ Succeed with you Conference, Inner Mongolia University of Technology (Inner Mongolia) 09 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 January 2015. <http://www.imut.edu.cn/gdxwf/7552.htm>

⁵²² Student drop out : “giving young people a new chance in education”, République Française (Paris) 21 November 2014. Date of Access : 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/student-dropout-giving-young-people-a-new-chance-in-education>

⁵²³ Student drop out : “giving young people a new chance in education”, République Française (Paris) 21 November 2014. Date of Access : 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/student-dropout-giving-young-people-a-new-chance-in-education>

plan is expected to reintegrate 10,000 youth into education.⁵²⁴ This plan is on schedule according to Prime Minister Manuel Vall's reform agenda.^{525,526}

On 3 December 2014, France announced to expand the Youth Guarantee scheme across 61 new departments supporting 50,000 youth in 2015 and 100,000 youth in 2017.⁵²⁷ The Youth Guarantee scheme helps youth less than 25 years of age find employment or training after their studies.⁵²⁸ France has set aside EUR162.2 million in the 2015 budget, with an additional EUR21.4 million from the European Union's Youth Employment Initiative Fund, for this expansion.

On 10 December 2014 the economic growth and activity bill was presented to the Council of Ministers.⁵²⁹

On 5 February 2015 the Ministry of Higher Education and Research launched its second edition of the *Prix PEPITE (Pôles étudiants pour l'innovation, le transfert et l'entrepreneuriat) — Tremplin pour l'Entrepreneuriat Etudiant*.⁵³⁰ The PEPITE Prize aims to encourage and support business creation among youth and students between the ages of 18 and 30 by providing prizes for the most innovative projects. Three grand prizes of EUR10,000 are awarded to the students with the most promising projects.⁵³¹

On 19 February 2015 President Hollande's government won a vote of confidence in the National Assembly allowing them to go forward with the *Loi Macron* bill designed to stimulate growth, investment and employment.⁵³² The bill is aimed at marginalized members of society and youth. Goals directly related to youth employment include promoting equal opportunity and mobility, in particular for young people and women, and creating new vistas and greater career flexibility for junior lawyers.⁵³³

⁵²⁴ Student drop out : "giving young people a new chance in education", République Française (Paris) 21 November 2014. Date of Access : 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/student-dropout-giving-young-people-a-new-chance-in-education>

⁵²⁵ Reform agenda, République Française (Paris) 21 June 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/reform-agenda>

⁵²⁶ Reform Agenda #reformagenda, République Française (Paris) 21 June 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/all/themes/custom/matignon/templates/agenda-reformes/pdf/reform-agenda.pdf>

⁵²⁷ France to extend Youth Guarantee scheme, EurActiv. 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/social-europe-jobs/france-extend-its-youth-guarantee-scheme-310521>

⁵²⁸ France to extend Youth Guarantee scheme, EurActiv. 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/social-europe-jobs/france-extend-its-youth-guarantee-scheme-310521>

⁵²⁹ The Economic Growth and Activity Bill, République Française (Paris) 10 December 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. (<http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-economic-growth-and-activity-bill>)

⁵³⁰ I-Lab 2015: 17ème concours national d'aide à la création d'entreprises innovantes, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid77179/ouverture-des-inscriptions-prix-pepите-tremplin-pour-entrepreneuriat-etudiant-2015.html>

⁵³¹ I-Lab 2015: 17ème concours national d'aide à la création d'entreprises innovantes, Ministère de l'Éducation nationale, 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid77179/ouverture-des-inscriptions-prix-pepите-tremplin-pour-entrepreneuriat-etudiant-2015.html>

⁵³² Hollande Government Wins Confidence Vote on Economic Reform Law, Bloomberg (Brussels) 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-19/hollande-government-wins-confidence-vote-on-economic-reform-law>

⁵³³ Growth and Economic Activity Bill, République Française (Paris) 10 December 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2015/02/frenchgrowthandeconomicactivitybill.pdf>

During the compliance period, France has taken actions to improve the educational attainment of the labour force, provide training programs to youth, and create new employment opportunities for youth populations. Thus, France has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Julia Stockdale-Otárola

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 20 January 2015, the German Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth published the article “Start of Interagency Program ‘Strengthening Youth in Their Own Neighbourhood’ in 180 municipalities.”⁵³⁴ This project is financed by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (BMFSFJ) and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).⁵³⁵ It aims to provide young individuals in social problem areas with training and create a successful transition into the work force.

This four year program is first introduced in 2015 in poorer developed urban areas and 185 municipalities. The European Social Fund and federal fund combined for approximately EUR115 million.⁵³⁶

On 21 January 2015, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research published a report that explained the “JOBSTARTER plus” program, the upgraded version of the “JOBSTARTER — Training for the Future” initiative that began in 2006. The main goal of the “JOBSTARTER — Training for the Future” program was to teach youths skills that will allow them to obtain jobs easier in the work force. The “JOBSTARTER plus” program focused more on the “innovation and structural development in vocational education,”⁵³⁷ allowing individuals to be better trained at their respective positions and provide more avenues for individuals to find their desired jobs.⁵³⁸

During the compliance cycle, Germany implemented a new program that improves youth training and employment transition as well as improved an existing program of vocational education, training and employment of youths. Thus, Germany is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Fu Yuan (Andrew) Liu

⁵³⁴ Start of interagency program "Youth SELLING in the neighborhood" in 185 municipalities, Federal Ministry on Education and Research (Bonn) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&prev=search&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=de&=http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/kinder-und-jugend,did%3D212922.html&usg=ALkJrhg8WWIMv1kYJyTA49cLCgFrJo8KKA

⁵³⁵ Start of interagency program "Youth SELLING in the neighborhood" in 185 municipalities, Federal Ministry on Education and Research (Bonn) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&prev=search&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=de&=http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/kinder-und-jugend,did%3D212922.html&usg=ALkJrhg8WWIMv1kYJyTA49cLCgFrJo8KKA

⁵³⁶ Start of interagency program "Youth SELLING in the neighborhood" in 185 municipalities, Federal Ministry on Education and Research (Bonn) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

https://translate.googleusercontent.com/translate_c?depth=1&hl=en&prev=search&rurl=translate.google.ca&sl=de&=http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/kinder-und-jugend,did%3D212922.html&usg=ALkJrhg8WWIMv1kYJyTA49cLCgFrJo8KKA#

⁵³⁷ JOBSTARTER - Training for the Future, Federal Ministry on Education and Research (Bonn) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.bmbf.de/de/jobstarter.php>

⁵³⁸ JOBSTARTER - Training for the Future, Federal Ministry on Education and Research (Bonn) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.bmbf.de/de/jobstarter.php>

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 21 January 2015, the government is working on a Rs. 1.2 Lakh crore solar power project and youth with a B.Tech, MBA or M.Com degree will be eligible to apply for a project, in which they can hold 26% to 51% equity, and receive a share of the revenue in proportion to their equity.⁵³⁹

During the compliance cycle, India created a new employment opportunity for youths. However, they did not take actions that improve youth education and training in preparation for employment. Thus, India has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Shabbano Rao

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment on youth labour and employment.

The government of Indonesia has recognized the importance of reducing youth unemployment and it has committed to ensure that effective strategies to be implemented to create decent jobs for youth and to ease them to access the information of labour market in their action plan for 2014-15.⁵⁴⁰

On 26-27 November 2014, the regional workshop on “Partnership for Solutions”: Priorities and Pathways for Sustainable Energy and Deep Decarbonization in Indonesia” took place. SDSN’s initiative is to promote sustainable development and encourage research and development in secondary education.⁵⁴¹ The UIS-SDSN Award also provide up to DR300 Million for the projects that are in line with United Nations sustainable goals. This initiative was first launched by the President of Republic of Indonesia and has improved subject specialization and presentation of new materials related to sustainable development.⁵⁴²

On November 21, the government of Indonesia launched the “Indonesia Smart Card,” which provides school fees and stipends to 24m poor students across Indonesia.⁵⁴³ This strategy addresses the concerns of disadvantaged youth to receive proper education.

The government of Indonesia also prioritized secondary and vocational training as priority in their Actions Plan and to promote apprenticeship programs in the national level. However, no actions have been taken in regarding to expand these training programs in Indonesia.⁵⁴⁴

⁵³⁹ Rs 1.2 lakh crore solar plan in the works for jobless tech grads, MBAs, The Times of India. 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Rs-1-2-lakh-crore-solar-plan-in-the-works-for-jobless-tech-grads-MBAs/articleshow/45960621.cms>.

⁵⁴⁰ Open Government Indonesia 2014-15 (Indonesia) July 2014. Date of Access, 10 December 2014. http://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Indonesia%20OGP%20ACTION%20PLAN%202014-2015_BAHASA.pdf

⁵⁴¹ The Sustainable Development Goals of the Post-2015 Agenda: Comments on the OWG and SDSN Proposals (German) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.diegdi.de/uploads/media/DIE_Comments_on_SDG_proposals__150226_04.pdf

⁵⁴² Partnering for solutions to sustainable energy in Indonesia, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Melbourne) 1 December, 2014. Date of Access: 10 February 2015. <http://ap-unsdsn.org/sustainable-energy-deep-decarbonization-indonesia/>

⁵⁴³ Indonesia's Jokowi launches welfare programmes, Khabar Southeast Asia (Indonesia) November 21, 2014. Date of Access: 10 February 2015. http://khabarsoutheastasia.com/en_GB/articles/apwi/articles/features/2014/11/21/feature-01

During the compliance period, Indonesia has shown some commitments to address the issue of youth unemployment through national policies that improve current youth education especially for disadvantaged youths. However, Indonesia has not taken action to improve youth training or employment. Thus, Indonesia has been awarded a score of 0 for this commitment.

Analyst: Celine Liu

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 29 December 2014 the Ministry of Education released a ministerial decree announcing a plan to establish a fund for the support of young people and encouragement of student mobility. The fund will provide scholarships to support international mobility of students as well as provide incentives for enrolment in courses of study related to particular subject areas “of national and community interest” such as science, engineering, and mathematics.⁵⁴⁵

On 23 January 2015 the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy announced a decree that expanded the incentive bonus to companies by adding a ‘professional apprenticeship’ category to the eligibility for incentives already available under the Youth Guarantee plan (Garanzia Giovani).⁵⁴⁶ The Italian implementation of the EU Youth Guarantee program, launched on 1 May 2014, aims to ensure all “NEETs” (youth between 15 and 29 years that are not in education, employment or training) find work, training, traineeships or apprenticeships, within four months after becoming unemployed or exit from the formal education system initiatives.⁵⁴⁷

On 20 February 2015 Italy’s coalition government approved a decree passed by parliament last year related to an initiative called the “Jobs Act,” which is designed to increase flexibility in the labour market by reducing regulatory restraints faced by employers when hiring and firing workers.⁵⁴⁸ The legislation will relax the conditions for companies to use fixed-term and apprenticeship contracts in an effort to replace temporary contracts and get young people into jobs with progressively more secure contracts that result in entitlement to a permanent job after three years.⁵⁴⁹

⁵⁴⁴ Open Government Indonesia 2014-15 (Indonesia) July 2014. Date of Access, 10 December 2014. http://www.opengovpartnership.org/sites/default/files/Indonesia%20OGP%20ACTION%20PLAN%202014-2015_BAHASA.pdf

⁵⁴⁵ Fondo per il sostegno dei giovani e favorire la mobilità degli studenti, Ministry of Education, University and Research (Rome) 29 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://attiministeriali.miur.it/anno-2014/dicembre/dm-29122014.aspx>

⁵⁴⁶ Bonus Occupazione, sì ad apprendistato professionalizzante e cumulabilità, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 12 February 2015. Accessed 28 February 2015. <http://www.garanzigiovani.gov.it/EventiNews/News/Pagine/2015/Bonus-Occupazione-si-ad-apprendistato-professionalizzante-e-cumulabilita.aspx>

⁵⁴⁷ Bonus Occupazione, sì ad apprendistato professionalizzante e cumulabilità, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Rome) 12 February 2015. Accessed 28 February 2015. <http://www.garanzigiovani.gov.it/EventiNews/News/Pagine/2015/Bonus-Occupazione-si-ad-apprendistato-professionalizzante-e-cumulabilita.aspx>

⁵⁴⁸ Italy’s Labour Market: Marching to a Different Tune, The Economist 28 February 2015. Accessed 28 February 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21645256-bold-move-free-up-employment-marching-different-tune>

⁵⁴⁹ Italy’s Labour Market: Marching to a Different Tune, The Economist 28 February 2015. Accessed 28 February 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21645256-bold-move-free-up-employment-marching-different-tune>

During the Compliance period, Italy has taken steps to improve educational attainment of the youth labour force, improved training programs, and created new employment opportunities for youths. Thus, Italy has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Travis Southin

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 12 February 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addressed the need to improve the measures for the employment of youth by encouraging companies hiring new graduates to give the option and information on overtime work, training, turnover, and various related opportunities.⁵⁵⁰ Furthermore, the Prime Minister wanted to utilize career promotion subsidy in order to give irregular employment to assist young workers who are looking for a stable and regular occupation.⁵⁵¹ He also stated that the public employment bureau, Hello Work, will not take job advertisement for new graduates from companies that have been suspected with high turnover rate of young workers.⁵⁵²

Japan has taken steps to improve conditions of youth employment by providing greater access to training, employment, and education. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Fu Yuan (Andrew) Liu

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On February 2015, President Park Geun-hye's administration has pushed ahead with a three-year economic innovation plan, which aims at increasing the youth employment rate from 40.4% to 47.7% by 2017.⁵⁵³

On 16 January 2015, the Korean government announced that in "support [for] young people to enter the labour market early, the government plans to introduce a work-study dual system, build and spread a competency-based hiring system and address mismatches between youth (job seekers) and SMEs [small and medium-sized enterprises]."⁵⁵⁴ The government of Korea also committed that it will expand the youth internship program for SMEs, aiming to expand to cover 50,000 beneficiaries in 2015.⁵⁵⁵

⁵⁵⁰ Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 189th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201502/policy.html

⁵⁵¹ Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 189th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201502/policy.html

⁵⁵² Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 189th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201502/policy.html

⁵⁵³ Korea lays out plans to deal with aging population. Asia Heartbeat arirang (Seoul). 06 February 2015. Date of Access: 10 February 2015. http://www.arirang.co.kr/News/News_View.asp?nseq=175603.

⁵⁵⁴ Young, elderly's income gap widens, The Korea Times (Seoul). 04 March 2015. Date of Access: March 05 2015. http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/biz/2015/03/602_174585.html.

⁵⁵⁵ Govt. Promotes Smart Plants. Invest Korea (Seoul). 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 10 February 2015.

http://www.investkorea.org/ikwork/iko/eng/cont/contents.jsp?no=608300001&l_unit=90202&bno=501160008&code=102060101&mode=&url_info=bbs_read.jsp.

In 2015, the Korean government plans to introduce the apprenticeship education program from Switzerland in vocational high school. After 2016, the plan is expected to expand such type of school into all 41 government-led industrial complex.⁵⁵⁶ However, there have not been any actions taken regarding to this proposal.

The Korean government also committed to provide financial incentives for young entrepreneurs by increasing its grants to high school graduates working at the SMEs. The government also proposed to stimulate demand of youth in the labour market after the completion of military services. However, there is no specific strategy mentioned in the plan.⁵⁵⁷

During the compliance period, Korea has shown commitments to address the issue of youth unemployment through national policies that improve education, training and improve youth employment opportunities. Thus, Korea has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Celine Liu

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 19 January 2015, the Mexican Government Incentive Program (PAI) published their incentive programs to promote economic growth and development. In the report, it did not list any incentive programs that promote youth employment. There are a few incentive programs on education, but they are not designed for youth between the ages 15-24.⁵⁵⁸

On 18 February 2015, KSAT 12 reported that the Mexican Consulate has given USD 60,000 to the University of the Incarnate Word in order to fund the scholarship program for Mexican origin students who are part of the IME Fellowship program. Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto increased the original fund for the program by four times. A specific amount of scholarships are designated to offer to students with Mexican origin. This scholarship is designed to help students reach their goals and contribute to the society in the United States and Mexico.⁵⁵⁹

During the compliance period, Mexico has taken action to promote employment to improve youth education, but did not take actions to improve youth training and employment opportunities. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Fu Yuan (Andrew) Liu

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to facilitate young people's access to education, training and employment.

⁵⁵⁶ Employment Plan 2014, Republic of Korea (Seoul). 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015.
https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_korea-1.pdf.

⁵⁵⁷ Employment Plan 2014, Republic of Korea (Seoul). 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015.
https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_korea-1.pdf.

⁵⁵⁸ PAI 2015 Government Incentive Program, Issuu 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015.
http://issuu.com/mireyjorgemercado/docs/pai2015-english_print

⁵⁵⁹ Mexican Consulate gives \$60,000 check for UIW student scholarships, KSAT 12 (San Antonio) 18 February 2015.
Date of Access: 21 February 2015.
<http://www.ksat.com/content/pns/ksat/news/2015/02/18/mexican-consulate-presents--60-000-check-for-uiw-student-scholar.html>

Russia has taken actions to promote young people's access to education.

On 22 April 2015, the meeting of the coordinating committee on the introduction of federal standards for education of people with disabilities took place in the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation. It was announced that the new standards would be implemented by 1 September 2016, which would allow to create a barrier-free environment in educational facilities, thus, facilitating vulnerable people's access to education.⁵⁶⁰

On 24 April 2015, the Government of Russia approved the plan for the implementation of the Children's Supplementary Education Development Concept for 2015-2020. The plan provides for measures to facilitate access to quality education.⁵⁶¹

Russia has taken actions to promote young people's access to employment.

On 1 April 2015, the first meeting of the Ministry of Education and Science Council on development of social partnership in education, youth policy and child protection took place in Moscow. The council is to elaborate new measures to advance cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders, including private sector and nongovernmental organizations in the field of youth policy. According to Russian Minister of Education and Science Dmitry Livanov, one of the goals of the newly created council is to promote professional orientation of the youth.⁵⁶²

On 28 May 2015, the Government of Russia approved the draft regulation distributing subsidies on the implementation of labour policy measures to the federal subjects. These measures include, inter alia, stimulating youth employment as well as providing training opportunities for the people in risk of losing their jobs.⁵⁶³

During the monitoring period Russia has taken actions to facilitate young people's access to education, training and employment. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 13 January 2015, Saudi Arabia increased their budget by 3% and allocated USD58 billion towards education, USD108 million towards general school rehabilitation projects and USD3 billion towards higher education.⁵⁶⁴

⁵⁶⁰ New federal standards for education of people with disabilities will be implemented from 1 September 2016, Russian Ministry of Education and Science 22 April 2015. Date of access: 16 June 2015. <http://xn--80abucjiibhv9a.xn--p1ai/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/5476>.

⁵⁶¹ The plan for the implementation of the Children's Supplementary Education Development Concept for 2015-2020 approved, Russian Ministry of Education and Science 8 May 2015. Date of access: 16 June 2015. <http://xn--80abucjiibhv9a.xn--p1ai/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/5533>.

⁵⁶² The first meeting of the Ministry of Education and Science Council on development of social partnership in education, youth policy and child protection took place, Russian Ministry of Education and Science 1 April 2015. Date of access: 16 June 2015. <http://xn--80abucjiibhv9a.xn--p1ai/%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B2%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8/5384>.

⁵⁶³ Four more regions are to receive subsidies on additional labor policy measures, Russian Ministry of Labor and Social Protection 28 May 2015. Date of access: 16 June 2015. <http://www.rosmintrud.ru/employment/employment/438>.

⁵⁶⁴ Saudi Arabia's Youth Unemployment Problem among King Salman's Many New Challenges after Abdullah's Death, International Business Times. 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.com/saudi-arabias-youth-unemployment-problem-among-king-salmans-many-new-challenges-after-1793346>

On 4 January 2015, the Saudi government announced make 300,000 jobs for its citizens in the private sector, the ministries of Economy and Planning, Finance and Labour will start 36 new initiatives to create more jobs.⁵⁶⁵

On 26 January 2015, a quota was placed on foreign firms to hire Saudi locals, to help decrease the youth unemployment rate and prevent locals from searching for jobs abroad.⁵⁶⁶

During the compliance cycle, Saudi Arabia has implemented programs that improve youth education and create youth employment, but did not take actions to improve youth training and employment opportunities. Thus, Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Shabbano Rao

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 19 November 2014, Deputy Minister Buti Manamela, in a speech at the African National Congress Progressive Business Forum encouraged youths to take advantage of the various skill and training programs offered by the National Youth Development Agency.⁵⁶⁷

On 2 December 2015, the National Human Settlements Youth Accord was signed between Minister of Human Settlements Lindiwe Sisulu, national youth organizations, and department key stakeholders. The youth accord creates housing programmes aimed at skill development and job creation.⁵⁶⁸

On 13 January 2015, the Department of Public Works invested approximately ZAR5 million in bursaries awarded to students pursuing careers in engineering, architecture, and urban planning.⁵⁶⁹

On 14 January 2015, the presidency initiated the consultative process in drafting the 2020 National Youth Policy, calling for youth input.⁵⁷⁰ The policy is to be implemented in March of this year with the primary goal of installing youth development programmes.⁵⁷¹

On 16 January 2015, the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation Pamela Tshwete launched the Unemployed Youth Skills Development Project in Thohoyandou in conjunction with the

⁵⁶⁵ Saudi Arabia To Create 300,000 Private Sector Jobs For Locals, Gulf Business. 4 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://gulfbusiness.com/2015/01/saudi-arabia-create-300000-private-sector-jobs-locals/#.VPMdC3zF-gx>

⁵⁶⁶ In Saudi Arabia, new king Salman seeks stability, Global Risk Insights. 26 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://globalriskinsights.com/2015/01/saudi-arabia-new-king-salman-seeks-stability/>

⁵⁶⁷ Address by Deputy Minister Buti Manamela at the ANC Progressive Business Forum, The Presidency (Pretoria) 19 November 2014. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.gov.za/speech-deputy-minister-buti-manamela-occasion-progressive-business-forum-johannesburg-country-club>.

⁵⁶⁸ Press Release - 02 December 2014, Department of Human Settlements (Pretoria) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.dhs.gov.za/content/media-statements/press-release-02-december-2014>.

⁵⁶⁹ Public Works invests millions in education, Department of Public Works (Pretoria) 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.gov.za/public-works-invests-millions-education>.

⁵⁷⁰ Draft National Youth Policy 2014-2019, The Presidency (Pretoria) 12 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/MediaLib/Downloads/Downloads/Draft%20National%20Youth%20Policy%202014%20AD2019.pdf>.

⁵⁷¹ Deputy Minister Buti Manamela: Launch of consultative process for the National Youth Policy 2020, The Presidency (Pretoria) 14 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.gov.za/deputy-minister-buti-manamela-launch-consultative-process-national-youth-policy-2020>.

Department of Public Works and the Vhembe District Municipality. The program rationale includes both job creation and skills development,⁵⁷²

On 22 January 2015, Minister of Basic Education Angelina Motshekga approved a revision of the current Senior Certificate qualification to include the Nation Curriculum Statement subjects, enhancing opportunities for pupils aged 21 and above to complete higher academic certification.⁵⁷³

South Africa has taken steps to improve conditions of youth employment by providing greater access to training, employment, and education. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sophie Barnett

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 26 November 2014, the Ministry of Development published the Medium Term Programme 2015-2017, which announces that the youth labour force participation and employment rate will “continue to be increased through an efficient and integrating employment policy.”⁵⁷⁴

As of December 2014, the Ministry of Labour and Social Security European Union Coordination Department implemented a project aimed at “Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training, and Vocational Skills of Young People.”⁵⁷⁵ The operation has a total budget of EUR25 million and an implementation period of 30 months.⁵⁷⁶

On 23 January 2015, the Ministry of Development published the Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018),⁵⁷⁷ It includes various goals for improving the current social and economic opportunities in Turkey, including that of youth.⁵⁷⁸ Future objectives aim at providing youths with the skill

⁵⁷² Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete: Launch of Vhembe District Municipality Unemployed Youth Skills Development Project, Department of Water and Sanitation (Thohoyandou) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.gov.za/deputy-minister-pamela-tshwete-launch-vhembe-district-municipality-unemployed-youth-skills>.

⁵⁷³ Basic Education on implementation of amended senior certificate, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 11 February 2015. <http://www.gov.za/implementation-amended-senior-certificate-qualification-adults-and-out-school-learners>.

⁵⁷⁴ Medium Term Programme (2015-2017), Ministry of Development (Ankara) October 2014. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. <http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/10/Medium-Term%20Programme%202015-2017.pdf>.

⁵⁷⁵ Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training, and Vocational Skills of Young People, Ministry of Labour and Social Security European Union Coordination Department (Ankara) December 2014. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. <http://ikg.gov.tr/en-us/projects/projectsinimplementation/natagency.aspx>.

⁵⁷⁶ Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training, and Vocational Skills of Young People, Ministry of Labour and Social Security European Union Coordination Department (Ankara) December 2014. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. <http://ikg.gov.tr/en-us/projects/projectsinimplementation/natagency.aspx>.

⁵⁷⁷ The Tenth Development Plan (2014-2018) published, Ministry of Development (Ankara) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. <http://www.mod.gov.tr/Pages/content.aspx?l=99479284-12e6-4d7d-bb4d-10d2a19feded&i=12>.

⁵⁷⁸ The Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, Ministry of Development (Ankara) 2 July 2013. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. [http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20\(2014-2018\).pdf](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20(2014-2018).pdf).

requirements of the information society and increasing the participation of youth, who are not in education or employment.⁵⁷⁹

The Turkish government specifies improving youth access to education, training, and employment opportunities by upgrading and increasing mobility programs as well as implementing support programs to “prevent young people from harmful habits.”⁵⁸⁰ The Tenth Development Plan also calls to provide prioritized state support for entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) “on the basis of innovation, productivity and employment, [and] growth and collaboration” to youth.⁵⁸¹ Again, however, policy has yet to be implemented.

During the compliance period, Turkey has begun to implement programs that improve youth education, training and increase employment opportunities. Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Sophie Barnett

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 10 December 2014 the Department of Education announced the creation of a careers and enterprise company that will provide young people aged 12 to 18 “access the best advice and inspiration about the world of work” by encouraging greater collaboration between schools and colleges and employers. The company will be employer-led and independent of government in order to “transform the provision of careers education and advice for young people.”⁵⁸²

On 20 January 2015 the Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills announced a new partnership with automotive manufacturers, funded with BGP11.3 million of government funding alongside a BGP2.8 million cash investment and BGP16.4 million in-kind contributions from industry. The partnership will provide a “route to work for 225 19 plus year-olds” by offering a 15-day program offering vocational training that leads to opportunities for future apprenticeships.⁵⁸³

On 27 January 2015 the Department for Education released its annual destination data 6 months in earlier than expected, “showing the government’s commitment to improving the timeliness of the

⁵⁷⁹ The Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, Ministry of Development (Ankara) 2 July 2013. Date of Access: 14 February 2015.

[http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20\(2014-2018\).pdf](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20(2014-2018).pdf).

⁵⁸⁰ The Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, Ministry of Development (Ankara) 2 July 2013. Date of Access: 14 February 2015.

[http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20\(2014-2018\).pdf](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20(2014-2018).pdf).

⁵⁸¹ The Tenth Development Plan 2014-2018, Ministry of Development (Ankara) 2 July 2013. Date of Access: 14 February 2015.

[http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20\(2014-2018\).pdf](http://www.mod.gov.tr/Lists/Duyurular%20ve%20Kalknma%20Ajans%20Duyurular/Attachments/12/The%20Tenth%20Development%20Plan%20(2014-2018).pdf).

⁵⁸² New careers and enterprise company for schools, Department of Education (London) 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-careers-and-enterprise-company-for-schools>

⁵⁸³ Government and automotive industry start the motor on £30 million skills investment, Department for Business, Innovation, and Skills (London) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-and-automotive-industry-start-the-motor-on-30-million-skills-investment>

data.” The destination data shows that from October 2012 to March 2013 91% of 16-year-olds continued on to further education, training or employment, rising from 89% the previous year.⁵⁸⁴

On 3 February 2015 the Cabinet Office announced 750 new apprenticeships in the civil service. The placements will be paid and offer two-year structured placements that result in the ability to apply for continued employment.⁵⁸⁵

On 4 February 2015 Chief Executive of the UK Commission for Employment and Skills Michael Davis welcomed the announcement of the creation of a GBP10.6 industrial partnership for the aerospace sector. Michael Davis noted that the partnership “will help the sector develop a range of innovative programmes, including ways to attract and retain young people and developing higher-level skills through industry-led graduate level courses.”⁵⁸⁶

On 17 February 2015 Prime Minister David Cameron outlined his plan to decrease youth unemployment by requiring youth aged 18-21 who have not had a job for six months to start an apprenticeship or complete community work in order to continue receiving job seeker’s allowance. Prime Minister Cameron noted signalled that youth unemployment will remain a top priority: “we are taking further steps to help young people make something of their lives. Our goal in the next parliament is effectively to abolish long-term youth unemployment.”⁵⁸⁷

The UK has shown an active commitment to reducing youth unemployment through the implementation of programs that ensure young people are in education, training and employment. Thus, the UK has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Travis Southin

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 8 December 2014 the Office of the Press Secretary announced new commitments that will provide millions of additional K-12 students access to computer science education in over 60 school districts. These commitments include over USD20 million in philanthropic contributions to train 10,000 computer science teachers by fall 2015 and 25,000 teachers by fall 2016.⁵⁸⁸

⁵⁸⁴ More young people continuing in education, employment, or training, Department for Education (London) 27 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-young-people-continuing-in-education-employment-or-training--2>

⁵⁸⁵ Government launches 750 apprenticeships for talented young people, Cabinet Office (London) 3 February 2015. Accessed 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-750-apprenticeships-for-talented-young-people>

⁵⁸⁶ UK Commission for Employment and Skills welcomes new aerospace industrial partnership, UK Commission for Employment and Skills (London) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/aerospace-industrial-partnership-welcomed-by-uk-commission-for-employment-and-skills>

⁵⁸⁷ Unemployed will have to do community work under Tories, says Cameron, The Guardian (London) 17 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/feb/17/unemployed-will-have-to-do-community-work-under-tories-says-cameron>

⁵⁸⁸ FACT SHEET – New Commitments to Support Computer Science Education, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/08/fact-sheet-new-commitments-support-computer-science-education>

On 9 January 2015 the Office of the Press Secretary unveiled a proposal called America's College Promise. The proposal will provide two years of free tuition to students who attend at least half-time, maintain a 2.5 GPA while in college, and make steady progress toward completing their program. Federal funding will contribute three quarters of the average cost of community college and participating states will be expected to contribute the rest.⁵⁸⁹

On 2 February 2015 President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget announced USD1.5 billion for a program called Connecting Disconnected Youth with Opportunities, which will create a competitive grant program to open "educational and workforce pathways for disconnected youth." The program will assist disconnected youth to earn high school diplomas, achieve further educational attainment, and improve long-term job prospects.⁵⁹⁰

On 2 February 2015 President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget announced a proposal to create a new USD200 million American Technical Training Fund that would create 100 technical training centers in an attempt to match workforce needs of employers in high-demand industries.⁵⁹¹

On 2 February 2015 President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget announced USD873,416,000 (a 5% increase) for elements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) that help youth "obtain skills and education to succeed in a knowledge-based economy, including growing and emerging industry sectors, such as health care and IT."⁵⁹² The WIOA was signed into law on 22 July 2014 with the goals of assisting job seekers in accessing employment, education, training, and support services and to match employers with skilled workers.⁵⁹³

On 2 February 2015 President Obama's fiscal year 2016 budget announced an additional USD1.5 billion for the Connecting Disconnected Youth with Opportunities program to provide grants for localities to expand summer and year-round job opportunities.⁵⁹⁴

On 23 February 2015 the United States Small Business Administration (SBA) announced an expansion of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative by launching the Millennial Road Show. The program is a national tour throughout 2015 of Minority Serving Institutions designed to expose

⁵⁸⁹ FACT SHEET - White House Unveils America's College Promise Proposal: Tuition-Free Community College for Responsible Students, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 9 January 2015. Date of Access 28 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/09/fact-sheet-white-house-unveils-america-s-college-promise-proposal-tuitio>

⁵⁹⁰ Fiscal Year 2016- Department of Labor Budget Fact Sheet, Department of Labor (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/2016/PDF/FY2016DOLFACTSHEET.pdf>

⁵⁹¹ The 2016 Budget: Improving Opportunity and Affordability in Higher Education, Department of Education (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of Access 28 February 2015.

<http://www.ed.gov/blog/2015/02/the-2016-budget-improving-opportunity-and-affordability-in-higher-education/>

⁵⁹² Fiscal Year 2016- Department of Labor Budget in Brief, Department of Labor (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/2016/PDF/FY2016BIB.pdf>

⁵⁹³ Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Department of Labor (Washington) 14 July 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>

⁵⁹⁴ Fiscal Year 2016- Department of Labor Budget Fact Sheet, Department of Labor (Washington) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.dol.gov/dol/budget/2016/PDF/FY2016DOLFACTSHEET.pdf>

youth to entrepreneurship support resources and raise awareness about the possibilities of overcoming barriers through entrepreneurship.⁵⁹⁵

The US has shown an active commitment to reducing youth unemployment through the implementation of programs that ensure young people are in education, training and employment. Thus, the US has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Travis Southin

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to reduce youth unemployment.

On 14 November 2014, the European Commission published the 2015 Erasmus+ Programme Guide, which outlines projects aimed at increasing the capacities of youth training and educational organizations, by offering more effective programmes to respond to individual needs, and reinforce initiatives in non-formal, vocational, and entrepreneurial training.⁵⁹⁶

In February 2015, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) published a briefing note outlining the CEDEFOP's commitment to place a primary focus on Vocational and Educational Training (VET) reforms, and to combating early leaving from education and training.⁵⁹⁷ The VET reform goals specify three main priorities: (1) supporting modernization; (2) work-based and adult learning; (3) analyzing skill demand and supply.⁵⁹⁸

On 10 February 2015 James Calleja, Director of CEDEFOP, reiterated a commitment to continued improvement in the areas of youth employment and skills development.⁵⁹⁹

The European Commission continues to support the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, an initiative launched in 2010, with an employment target of 75% for the working-age population by 2020.⁶⁰⁰

The European Union has taken actions to improve the educational attainment and vocational skills training of the youth labour force, and has worked to create youth employment opportunities. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Alison Dillman

⁵⁹⁵ SBA Announces Millennial Entrepreneurship Road Show, United States Small Business Administration (Washington) 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-announces-millennial-entrepreneurs-road-show>

⁵⁹⁶ Erasmus+ Programme Guide, European Commission (Belgium), 19 February 2015. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/discover/guide/index_en.htm

⁵⁹⁷ Old Routes for New Routes, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Belgium), 10 February 2015. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/9095>

⁵⁹⁸ Old Routes for New Routes, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Belgium), 10 February 2015. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/9095>

⁵⁹⁹ On the Road to Reform: European VET on Cedefop's 40th Anniversary, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Belgium) 10 February 2015. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/news-and-press/press-and-media/press-releases/road-reform-european-vet-cedefops-40th-anniversary>

⁶⁰⁰ Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, European Commission (Belgium) 2012. Date Accessed: 21 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=958>

6. Labour and Employment: Social Protection

“We remain focussed on addressing ... long-term unemployment, by ... having appropriate social protection systems.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia	-1		
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union	-1		
Average		+0.15	

Background

Labour and employment policies have been prioritized on the G20 agenda since the London Summit in 2009. At the London Summit, G20 leaders pledged to “do whatever is necessary to: restore confidence, growth and jobs.”⁶⁰¹

The 2009 Pittsburgh Summit communiqué placed the creation of quality jobs at the heart of global economic recovery. The G20 leaders created the Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth, which calls for “structural reforms to create more inclusive labour markets, active labour market policies, and quality education and training programs.”⁶⁰²

At the 2010 Toronto Summit, leaders reviewed and expanded upon the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth. In the final communiqué, leaders agreed to follow through on fiscal stimulus and “growth-friendly” fiscal consolidation, strengthen social safety nets, enhance

⁶⁰¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2 April 2009. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0402.html>

⁶⁰² G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, 25 September 2009. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0925.html>

infrastructure spending and corporate governance reform, and to pursue structural reforms to increase and sustain growth.⁶⁰³ At the Toronto Summit, the importance of social protection systems became a priority of G20 labour and employment commitments, with the communiqué promising to strengthen social safety nets.

The 2010 Seoul Summit launched the Seoul Action Plan. The action plan called upon G20 members to undertake “labor market and human resource development reforms, including better targeted benefits schemes to increase participation; education and training to increase employment in quality jobs, boost productivity and thereby enhance potential growth” along with reforms to strengthen social safety nets.⁶⁰⁴

The 2011 Cannes Summit continued to foster employment and increase social protection policies. The communiqué set up a G20 Task Force on Employment, reporting to the G20 labour and employment ministers. The task force aims to target those most affected by the economic crisis, especially global youth, while recognizing the importance of social protection floors.⁶⁰⁵

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, leaders agreed upon the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan. The Plan represents a coordinate effort among G20 nations to create high quality job opportunities globally, as well as a commitment to take concrete actions to eliminate barriers to women’s full economic and social participation.⁶⁰⁶ The action plan also committed G20 countries to “continue to foster inter-agency and international policy coherence, coordination, cooperation and knowledge sharing to assist low-income countries in capacity building for implementing nationally determined social protection floors.”

The 2013 St. Petersburg communiqué committed the G20 to create better quality jobs by creating “strong and supportive macroeconomic, trade, investment, and labour market policies, sustainable public finance, a sound and well-regulated financial system, and resilient and effective social protection systems.”⁶⁰⁷ The document also extended the G20 Task Force on Employment’s mandate for one more year.

Throughout its history of action on labour and employment policies, the G20 has worked in a coordinated manner to combat unemployment and increase social protection programmes alongside the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 members to continue working towards an integrated approach to reduce long-term unemployment by creating strong and stable social protection systems.

⁶⁰³ The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, 27 June 2010. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

⁶⁰⁴ The Seoul Summit Document, 12 November 2010. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-doc.html>

⁶⁰⁵ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, 4 November 2011. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

⁶⁰⁶ G20 Leaders Declaration: Los Cabos, 19 June 2012. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

⁶⁰⁷ G20 Leaders' Declaration: St. Petersburg, 6 September 2013. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

As defined by the OECD, long-term unemployment refers to people who have been unemployed for twelve months or more.⁶⁰⁸ An unemployed person is defined as one who reports having “worked in gainful employment for less than one hour in the previous week, who are available for work and who have sought employment in the past four weeks.”

A 2012 United Nations Report defined a social protection program as one that tackles “multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation (decent work, education, health care, food security, income security) and can therefore be a powerful tool in the battle against poverty and inequality.”⁶⁰⁹

The Brisbane Action Plan denotes that “supporting our citizens, particularly youth and women, to gain and maintain quality employment can also deliver important social benefits by lifting citizens’ living standards, enhancing social cohesion and reducing inequality. Significant welfare gains can be made by addressing informality and improving the health and safety of workplaces, and we will renew our efforts, appropriate to our national circumstances, in these areas.”⁶¹⁰

The action plan calls on G20 members to implement social programs targeting women and youth, but to also take initiative in developing social protection systems in the following areas:

- Introducing and strengthening policies that promote entrepreneurship and skills development, strengthening the linkages between education, training and workforce needs;
- Addressing the problems faced by disadvantaged groups, including people with disabilities and the long-term unemployed;
- Addressing long-term and structural unemployment, underemployment and low-quality, insecure jobs in the informal economy;
- Taking measures to improve occupational health and safety policies;
- Moving to establish or increase minimum wages, improve social dialogue and improve social safety nets; and
- Taking steps to streamline labour market regulation and reduce non-wage costs of labour.⁶¹¹

A report prepared for the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting of September 2014, calls for an increase in social protection expenditure, in particular, expenditure on active labour market programs (ALMPs). ALMPs are designed to get unemployed people back to work using initiatives that include job placement services, benefit administration, and labour market programs such as training and job creation.⁶¹² The report states that it is “essential that adequate resources are devoted to cost-effective ALMPs that can both help and encourage the unemployed to find work

⁶⁰⁸ Unemployment: Long-term unemployment rate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 2015. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://data.oecd.org/unemp/long-term-unemployment-rate.htm>

⁶⁰⁹ Social protection: A development priority in the post-2015 UN development agenda, United Nations (New York) May 2012. Access Date: 2 February 2015.

http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Think%20Pieces/16_social_protection.pdf

⁶¹⁰ Brisbane Action Plan, 2015 Turkey G20 (Turkey) November 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_action_plan.pdf

⁶¹¹ Brisbane Action Plan, 2015 Turkey G20 (Turkey) November 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_action_plan.pdf

⁶¹² Employment Policies Data: Active labour market policies and activation strategies, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 15 July 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/employment/emp/activelabourmarketpoliciesandactivationstrategies.htm>

and to strengthen their skills through training, as required. In particular, for the unemployed with low skills more in-depth and individualised support should be provided.”⁶¹³

The report cites areas of social protection that require further action, including changes to public employment services, the availability of relevant and quality training, direct job creation, employer or employee subsidies, entrepreneurship support programs, apprenticeship schemes, partnerships between education and training providers, minimum wages, collective bargaining, social dialogue and workers’ rights, school-to-work transition programs, workplace safety, access to health care, the formalization of informal jobs, and the availability of child and elder care.⁶¹⁴

The report also states that it is imperative that attention be paid to the quality of jobs created. For example, in countries with aging populations “policies to encourage female participation and to encourage older workers to stay active are key to at least partially compensate for the shrinking working-age population and its potential negative impact on growth” while countries with relatively youthful populations must create “sufficient employment opportunities to take advantage of the continuing surge in the working-age population.”⁶¹⁵ It is also critical that these initiatives are cost-effective and must be able to rapidly scale up or down in response to demand.

Therefore, an appropriate social protection system is one that seeks to create long-term quality employment, but also remains cost-effective in order to achieve long-term strength and stability.

Although countries should take actions to implement social protection policies targeting long-term unemployment that abide by the above criteria they should also adhere to the commitments made towards social protection in their respective G20 employment plans released at the Brisbane Summit.

To achieve full compliance the G20 member must take actions to address long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems targeted at increasing quality jobs through active labour market programs (ALMPs) and relevant social protection measures.

Scoring Guideline

-1	Member does not take action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems.
0	Member takes action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems, but does not implement the policies during the compliance cycle.
+1	Member takes action to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems during the compliance cycle.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

⁶¹³ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

⁶¹⁴ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

⁶¹⁵ G20 labour markets: outlook, key challenges and policy responses, International Labour Organization (Melbourne) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 2 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/---publ/documents/publication/wcms_305421.pdf

In 2014, Argentina committed to a plan to reduce poverty. The plan covers fiscal years 2015-2018. The World Bank Group developed a strategy based on three themes: sustained employment creation in farms and firms; improving the availability of assets for people and households; reducing environmental risks and safeguarding natural resources. The World Bank will aid Argentina in achieving outcomes including contributing to reduce average transit time to city centres from poor neighborhoods, increasing the gross value of agricultural production of small and medium-size farms in lower-income areas, and supporting an increase in effective national healthcare coverage.^{616,617}

On 15 January 2015, Argentina implemented the Youth Employment Support Project. The project aims to improve access for vulnerable youth to labour markets.⁶¹⁸ The project has three main objectives. First, to improve the quality and relevance of orientation and training services to ensure that applicants are fully qualified when applying for jobs. Second, to reach 200,000 youth every year of its implementation, reaching 390,000 after its completion (participants may return to the program). Third, to improve the ability of employment offices by incorporating new management practices into current and new offices.

Argentina has committed to reducing long-term unemployment through youth engagement and is set to begin implementing a World Bank aided plan through to 2018. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Australia: -1

Australia has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Australia's Employment Plan cites "soft employment growth, a falling participation rate and a rising unemployment rate" as a call to action to implement much-needed reforms.⁶¹⁹ The document underlines the understanding that long-term unemployment is a challenge to the overall prosperity of the country, with previous successes in curbing long-term unemployment to a 20-year low in 2008 almost entirely erased by September 2014.⁶²⁰

On 4 February 2015, the Australian government released a white paper, proposing reform of the federal system in Australia. The reform is to be driven by horizontal fiscal equalization, in order to bring up to par the quality of services nationwide, including health care, schools, skills and workforce

⁶¹⁶ New WBG Strategy to Support Poverty Reduction & Inclusive Growth in Argentina, The World Bank (Washington) 9 September 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2014/09/09/new-wbg-strategy-to-support-poverty-reduction-inclusive-growth-in-argentina>

⁶¹⁷ New Strategy to Support Poverty Reduction in Argentina, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Buenos Aires) 10 September 2014. Access Date: 5 March 2015. <http://unsdn.org/new-strategy-to-support-poverty-reduction-in-argentina/>

⁶¹⁸ Argentina - Youth Unemployment Support Project, The World Bank (Washington) 10 December 2014. Access Date: 5 March 2015. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2014/12/23070909/argentina-youth-employment-support-project>

⁶¹⁹ Employment Plan 2014: Australia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Access Date: 3 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_australia_0.pdf

⁶²⁰ Employment Plan 2014: Australia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_australia_0.pdf

development, disability and affordable housing.⁶²¹ This white paper will be released by the end of 2015.

On 25 February 2015, the Australian government released the Final Report of the Reference Group on Welfare Reform, which aims to make Australia's welfare system "fairer, more effective, coherent and sustainable, and encourage people to work."⁶²² After a six-week period of consultations by a selected Reference Group, *A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes* was presented to the Minister of Social Services. The report recommends an integrated approach with four main pillars to improve the social welfare system: (1) simpler and sustainable income support system; (2) strengthening individual and family capacity; (3) engaging with employees; and (4) building community capacity.⁶²³ The report recommends a redesign of the payment architecture including: tiered working-age payments, supported living pensions, child and youth payments, carer payments, and age pension. Mainstream services such as "building capability for work; financial capability development; family support; services to improve outcomes for children; support to manage mental health conditions; and assistance to stabilise housing" are recommended to achieve long-term outcomes for families, individuals and communities. The report recommends support for employers including during the recruitment phase and placement and post placement support, initiatives that provide pathways from study to work, and wage subsidy schemes.

Australia has released several recommendations on improving the social protection system in order to improve the long-term unemployment rate, but has yet to establish concrete policy in this area during the compliance cycle. Therefore, Australia receives a compliance score of -1.

Analysts: Max Stern and Caitlin Gillespie

Brazil: -1

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

On 7 June 2011, Brazil launched a national social welfare scheme, Brazil Without Poverty, which sought to lift 16.2 million Brazilians out of extreme poverty. It defined individuals in extreme poverty as those living on less than BRL70 a month.⁶²⁴ This framework was aimed at improving public services such as education, broadening the scope of Bolsa Familia payments, and enhancing productive inclusiveness by giving poor Brazilians the means to escape poverty through quality job opportunities, vocational training, and micro-credit.⁶²⁵ The Brazil Without Poverty initiative took the 2003 Bolsa Familia Program, a conditional cash transfer program instituted by former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, as its central pillar.⁶²⁶ This social protection program of monthly allowances

⁶²¹ Reform of the Federation White Paper, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. https://federation.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/issues-paper/issues-paper-5_COAG_FFR.pdf

⁶²² Review of Australiadpmc.gov.au/sites, Australian Government Department of Social Services (Canberra) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 4 March 2015. <https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/review-of-australias-welfare-system>

⁶²³ A New System for Better Employment and Social Outcomes, Ministry for Social Services (Canberra) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015.

https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/02_2015/dss001_14_exec_summary_access_2_final_0.pdf

⁶²⁴ Brazil launches scheme to lift millions out of poverty, BBC News (London) 2 June 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-13626951>

⁶²⁵ Brazil declares war on "chronic poverty," The Guardian (London) 7 June 2011. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2011/jun/07/brazil-dilma-rousseff-poverty-eradication>

⁶²⁶ Brazil's bolsa familia scheme marks a decade of pioneering poverty relief, The Guardian (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/17/brazil-bolsa-familia-decade-anniversary-poverty-relief>

offer up to BRL242 to families on the condition that their children attend school and receive vaccinations. The program's primary goals concern reducing poverty as well as breaking its transmission onto later generations. It has been proven to be cost-effective, yielding a return of BRL1.78 to the economy for every BRL1 spent.⁶²⁷ To date, it has benefited 46 million people.

On 22 December 2014, President Dilma Rousseff pledged to take drastic measures in 2015 to revive the country's economy while insisting that social programs will not be affected.⁶²⁸ On 27 January 2015, Rousseff made another statement reaffirming that changes in the economic area will not jeopardize the continuity of social policies, rising incomes, or employment.

On 4 February 2015, following an interministerial meeting alongside union representatives, the federal government and unions announced their intention to broaden the dialogue on Brazil's labour market, emphasizing in particular the need to address informality.⁶²⁹ The government also plans to implement a tripartite commission in order to improve labour relations and job quality while protecting workers' rights.

On 9 February 2015, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development published its Going for Growth 2015 key findings on Brazil in which it stated that Brazil has continuously expanded its vocational training programs for low-skilled workers as well as the scholarships given for tertiary education.⁶³⁰ Moreover, the report removed "encourage formal labour participation" as a reform priority for Brazil since the country has streamlined its social security procedures, lowered the required social contributions of small and medium enterprises, and reduced hiring costs, all of which have combined to increase Brazilians' participation in the formal sector.

On 11 February 2015, the Ministry of Labour and Employment pledged BRL2.6 million to combat tax evasion and another BRL2.5 to fight against informality in the labour market.⁶³¹ Preparation for this second phase in Brazil's fight against informality have included improving surveillance tools, training workplace inspectors, and a proposal to raise the fine for employers who fail to register their employees through contracts.⁶³² In turn, the government hopes to generate revenues towards its

⁶²⁷ Brazil's bolsa familia scheme marks a decade of pioneering poverty relief, The Guardian (London) 17 December 2013. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2013/dec/17/brazil-bolsa-familia-decade-anniversary-poverty-relief>

⁶²⁸ Rousseff pledges to take drastic measures and not affect social programs, Agencia Brasil (Brazil) 12 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/economia/noticia/2014-12/rousseff-pledges-take-dramatic-measures-and-not-affect-social-programs>

⁶²⁹ Government and central expand dialogue and incorporate debate on the labour market, social security and industry, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/governo-e-centrais-ampliam-dialogo-e-incorporam-debate-sobre-mercado-de-trabalho-previdencia-e-industria/palavrachave/reuniao-centrais-seguro-desemprego.htm>

⁶³⁰ Economic Policy Reforms 2015: Going for Growth, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oced/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015/brazil_growth-2015-10-en#page1

⁶³¹ Brazil to do battle against tax evasion and underground economy, International Business Times (New York) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/brazil-do-battle-against-tax-evasion-underground-economy-1487594>

⁶³² MTE spear fighting informal measures, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/mte-lanca-medidas-de-combate-a-informalidade-e-sonegacao-do-fgts.htm>

Severance Indemnity Fund for workers.⁶³³ These measures follow the launch of Brazil's National Plan for Combating Informality on 22 May 2014.

On 26 February 2015, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Maonel Dias, took part in the first meeting of the National Apprenticeship Forum. The forum is meant to act as a consultative body that encourages employers and representatives of various economic sectors to promote young people's right to vocational training.⁶³⁴ Dias stated the ministry's focus is to improve the quality of employment and strengthen measures that enhance professional qualifications.

Brazil has worked on proposals and has taken part in forums regarding social protection systems aimed at targeting long-term unemployment, and has also pledged funds to fight informality. However, Brazil did not take action towards implementing social protection systems during this compliance cycle. Therefore, Brazil receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Canada has continued to promote the social protection measures it announced in early 2014 through the Economic Action Plan 2014.⁶³⁵ Through statements and public announcements the government sought to promote its existing social protection measures and encourage the participation of women, people with disabilities and Aboriginal people in the labour market.

Minister of Labour Kellie Leitch has been actively promoting an increasing representation of women on corporate boards as a way to increase gender balance and create more economic opportunities. On 17 December 2014, she addressed the Vernon Chamber of Commerce. On 11 February 2015, she addressed the Tri-Cities Chamber in Coquitlam, British Columbia.⁶³⁶

On 29 January 2015 Minister Leitch met with provincial and territorial ministers to address the protection of young workers and encourage provincial governments to ratify bill C238, which promotes decent work and sets minimum age standards for young workers.⁶³⁷

Promoting existing social protection programs, the Minister of State for Social Development Candice Bergen announced on 1 December 2014 reforms to the Opportunities Fund for Persons with

⁶³³ Brazil to do battle against tax evasion and underground economy, International Business Times (New York) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/brazil-do-battle-against-tax-evasion-underground-economy-1487594>

⁶³⁴ Dais opens 1st meeting of the National Apprenticeship Forum, Ministry of Labour and Employment (Brazil), 26 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://portal.mte.gov.br/imprensa/dias-abre-1-reuniao-do-forum-nacional-de-aprendizagem/palavrachave/forum-de-aprendizagem.htm>

⁶³⁵ Economic Action Plan 2014: The Road to Balance, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 February 2014. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://www.budget.gc.ca/2014/docs/themes/road-voie-eng.html>

⁶³⁶ Minister Leitch speaks to Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce in Coquitlam, British Columbia, about strong labour relations, Employment and Social Development Canada (Coquitlam) 11 February 2015. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=930319>

⁶³⁷ Closing Remarks at the Videoconference with Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Labour on Protection of Young Workers, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 29 January 2015. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://www.labour.gc.ca/eng/resources/news/speeches/leitch/2015/20150129B.shtml>

Disabilities Program — a fund to help people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment. She also announced the launch of a new call for applications for the program in early 2015.⁶³⁸

On 15 December 2014 the government of Canada announced nearly CAD4 million in funding to Prince Edward Island for two projects aimed at helping young people and newcomers find work in their fields and renewed two previous agreements that help seniors and persons with disabilities connect to jobs.⁶³⁹ Funded through the Youth Employment Strategy, the first initiative, called Career Prep Program, will receive CAD3 million to aid 400 students in finding placement in small and medium-sized enterprises. The second initiative, called Building Bridges for Immigrants, will receive nearly CAD1 million to aid qualified foreign workers within the province to have their international credentials recognized. The governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island pledged CAD1.3 million each to the Labour Market Agreement for Persons with Disabilities, to help those with disabilities gain employment.

On 17 December 2014 Minister of Employment and Social Development Kenney, working to ensure Canadians are aware of available programs and funding through ongoing programs (such as the Canada Job Grant, the Youth Employment Strategy, apprenticeship grants and the government's initiatives for Aboriginal skills training), discussed the "importance of enhancing the participation of under-represented groups in the workforce, such as youth and Aboriginal people." He also highlighted the challenge of jobs mismatch and reiterated the government's priorities of skills training harmonization, improved labour mobility, and faster foreign credential recognition for internationally trained professionals.⁶⁴⁰

On 18 December 2015, the governments of Canada and Manitoba announced a joint pledge of over CAD100,000 to aid the youth of Winnipeg to transition from education to the workforce through the federal Skills Link program.⁶⁴¹ The program will also offer workers to gain industry certifications.

On 8 January 2015, fulfilling a commitment from the 2014 Economic Action Plan, Prime Minister Harper announced the launch of the Canada Apprentice Loan, a program that allows apprentices registered in a Red Seal trade apprenticeship to get up to CAD4,000, per period of technical training, in interest-free loans.⁶⁴² This initiative complements existing measures such as apprenticeship grants, Employment Insurance benefits for apprentices taking technical training, and tax incentives for employers.⁶⁴³

⁶³⁸ Minister Bergen recognizes International Day of Persons With Disabilities, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 3 December 2014. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=911439>

⁶³⁹ Governments of Canada and Prince Edward Island take action to help Islanders get jobs faster, Employment and Social Development Canada (Summerside) 15 December 2014. Access Date: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=914389>

⁶⁴⁰ Minister Kenney addresses the Canadian Club of Calgary on the Government of Canada's Jobs Agenda, Employment and Social Development Canada (Calgary) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 15 March 2015: <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=915329>

⁶⁴¹ The Government of Canada helps youth in Winnipeg get jobs, Employment and Social Development Canada (Winnipeg) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 14 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=915559>

⁶⁴² Harper urges employers to take on apprentices, announces loan at BCIT, The Globe and Mail (Toronto) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/british-columbia/harper-urges-employers-to-take-on-apprentices-announces-loan-at-bcit/article22372545/>

⁶⁴³ PM announces that the Canada Apprentice Loan program is now accepting applications, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 15 March 2015. <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2015/01/08/pm-announces-canada-apprentice-loan-program-now-accepting-applications>

Canada has taken actions to combat unemployment and offer opportunities to youth by extending or renewing funding to existing social protection programs. The government of Canada has also exhibited an initiative to work with provinces on an individual basis to develop appropriate social protection systems. Therefore, Canada has been awarded a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

In June 2014, the State Council released the Decision to Push Ahead the Development of Modern Vocation Education, establishing a vocational program capable of producing 38.3 million graduates by 2020.⁶⁴⁴ By way of the policy reform, 600 Chinese universities will be transformed into vocational schools with greater emphasis on applied skills to better match students' higher learning with demands of China's major industrial sectors.^{645,646} The Ministry of Education predicts that enrolment in vocational colleges will reach 13.9 million by 2015.⁶⁴⁷

On 7 January 2015 the Ministry of Labour urged municipal governmental authorities to extend unemployment benefits to residents outside urban Hukou registrations.⁶⁴⁸ The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security stated that a lack of local registration should not be used to practice discrimination in giving workers' unemployment benefits. These decisions build upon developments in early October 2014 when the Chinese government simultaneously announced its intention to create more high quality jobs to migrant workers by providing training and skills upgrading to approximately 20 million rural labourers annually until 2020 as well as resettling 100 million individuals without urban identification records in cities.⁶⁴⁹ Moreover, local governments are also called upon by the central government to offer free career counselling and job seeking services to further workers' career and skills development.⁶⁵⁰

On 14 January 2015, the State Council, China's chief policy body, announced its intention to allocate CNY40 billion towards creating a new venture capital fund to support business start-ups as a means

⁶⁴⁴ Employment Plan 2014: China, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Access Date: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_china.pdf

⁶⁴⁵ Economic Policy Reforms: Going for Growth 2015, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/oecd/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015/china_growth-2015-13-en#page1

⁶⁴⁶ Employment Plan 2014: China, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Access Date: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_china.pdf

⁶⁴⁷ School-to-Work Transition, Center on International Education Benchmarking (Washington) 2014. Access Date: 25 February 2015. <http://www.ncee.org/programs-affiliates/center-on-international-education-benchmarking/top-performing-countries/shanghai-china/shanghai-china-school-to-work-transition/>

⁶⁴⁸ China Urges Cities Expand Unemployment Benefits to Migrant Workers, CRI News (Beijing) 8 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://english.cri.cn/11114/2012/09/21/1261s723419.htm>

⁶⁴⁹ Central Government Offers More High Quality Jobs to Migrant Workers, Shenzhen Standard (Shenzhen) 2 October 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.shenzhen-standard.com/2014/10/02/central-government-offers-more-high-quality-jobs-to-migrant-workers/>

⁶⁵⁰ China to expand unemployment benefits to lure migrants to cities, Reuters (Beijing) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://ca.reuters.com/article/topNews/idCAKBN0KG11Z20150107>

of promoting domestic entrepreneurship and innovation.⁶⁵¹ This move fulfills a promise made by the government in May 2014, proposing to double the government-led fund capital in support of emerging industries.

On 16 January 2015, the State Council announced a new national pension plan that will require previously exempt public sector employees to pay for benefits. Prior to this revision, the dual-track state pension program saw corporate employees contribute 8% of their salaries but none from civil servants.⁶⁵² The change seeks to address the gap in pension benefits favouring the public sector whereby government workers receive pension benefits equivalent to 80 or 90% of their pre-retirement salary while others often receive benefits below 50%.

On 27 January 2015, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged to create 10 million new jobs in 2015 despite a slowdown in economic growth.⁶⁵³ Li stated “large amounts of unemployment ... could lead to social instability if the economy cools down too fast.”

On 5 February 2014, the State Council issued a document aimed at promoting the well-being of disabled people by enhancing employment opportunities and ensuring public services.⁶⁵⁴ The council pledges to improve social assistance, pensions, and basic medical insurance. If implemented, these measures could affect up to 85 million disabled people, 12.3 million of which currently live below the poverty in rural areas.

On 26 February 2015, in line with goals outlined in China’s G20 Employment Plan 2014, Guangdong Province’s Human Resources and Social Security Department announced that it would increase its minimum wage by an average of 19% on 1 May 2015.⁶⁵⁵ This follows minimum wage increases in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin in March 2014.⁶⁵⁶ However, different cities within the province will see their wages increase at different rates. In Shenzhen, workers can expect the hourly wage rate to increase to CNY18.5 and monthly wages to reach CNY2030, while in Guangzhou, the province’s capital, wages will increase to CNY18.3 per hour and reach CNY1895 per month.⁶⁵⁷ In second and third tier cities, monthly wages will increase to CNY1510 and CNY1350 respectively.

China has initiated several actions targeting the reduction of long-term unemployment through the implementation of appropriate social protection systems. Such policies include those targeted at increasing minimum wages, training and vocational programs, pension and benefits reforms and

⁶⁵¹ Startup fund to allocate assets more widely, The State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. http://english.gov.cn/premier/news/2015/01/15/content_281475039641414.htm

⁶⁵² China pension reform targets civil servant privileges, Financial Times (Shanghai) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3141eb64-9c97-11e4-a730-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3TGhh0m5o>

⁶⁵³ China’s Li Keqiang says to create 10 million jobs in 2015, International Business Times (United Kingdom) 27 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/chinas-li-keqiang-says-create-10-million-jobs-2015-1485293>

⁶⁵⁴ China pledges to promote well-being of disabled people, China Daily (Xinhua) 5 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2015-02/05/content_19501703.htm

⁶⁵⁵ Guangdong finally announces plans to increase minimum wage of 19 percent, China Labour Bulletin (Hong Kong) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.clb.org.hk/en/content/guangdong-finally-announces-plans-increase-minimum-wage-19-percent>

⁶⁵⁶ China raises minimum wages in Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin: Report, Reuters (Shanghai) 31 March 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/04/01/us-china-salary-idUSBREA3004H20140401>

⁶⁵⁷ Guangdong finally announces plans to increase minimum wage of 19 percent, China Labour Bulletin (Hong Kong) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.clb.org.hk/en/content/guangdong-finally-announces-plans-increase-minimum-wage-19-percent>

those aimed at stimulating small and medium-sized enterprises. Therefore, China receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

Following his success in creating 150,000 jobs between 2013 and 2014 through the program “Jobs of the Future,” Prime Minister François Hollande committed to continuing the program, designed to increase youth employment, for 2015.⁶⁵⁸

On 1 January 2015, the government of France opened up Training Staff Accounts (CPF), replacing the previous Individual Right to Training (DIF) for new public sector employees. These accounts will monitor training hours. Each employee will be required to complete and record training hours, thereby increasing their eligibility within the job market.⁶⁵⁹

On 9 February 2015, François Rebsamen, member of the French Senate, announced an action plan to fight against long-term unemployment. It aims to assist all applicants who have lost jobs in the economic downturn to return to work, whatever their field may be.⁶⁶⁰ This policy covers youth, seniors, and long-term job seekers. The action plan also aims to create 275,000 places in daycare for children 0-3 years old, enabling mothers to return to work.

France has taken few actions to comply with its commitment to reduce long-term unemployment through the creation of appropriate social protection systems. Therefore, France receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment and strengthen social protection systems by effectively activating employment policies and improving social security measures for disadvantaged people.

On 15 December 2014 Federal Minister of Labour Andrea Nahles met with representatives of the German Association for Public and Private Welfare, social partners and charities to discuss long-term unemployment and opening up opportunities for social participation. At the meeting Minister Nahles stated that despite the German economy reaching an all-time-high employment of 43 million, the

⁶⁵⁸ Les Emplois D’avenir, Department of Emploi et Travail (Paris) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/action/les-emplois-d-avenir>

⁶⁵⁹ Les Emplois D’avenir, Department of Emploi et Travail (Paris) 17 December 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/action/les-emplois-d-avenir>

⁶⁶⁰ Le gouvernement promet des formations gratuites aux chômeurs de longue durée, Le Parisien (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. [http://www.leparisien.fr/flash-actualite-politique/rebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php%24ei%3DF8kJVduuEsmfNouogsAL%24usg%3DAFQjCNGDBWfNXqRRZE-oX3Nie2myub8EFA%24sig%3Dcxwao1aw1X7i37ElgYk9kg%24bvm%3Dbv.88198703%2Cd.eXY](http://www.leparisien.fr/flash-actualite-politique/rebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php#xtref=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.ca%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%24rct%3Dj%24q%3D%24esrc%3Ds%24source%3Dweb%24cd%3D2%24ved%3D0CCgQFjAB%24url%3Dhttp%253A%252F%252Fwww.leparisien.fr%252Fflash-actualite-politique%252Frebsamen-tous-les-chomeurs-aurent-droit-a-une-formation-qualifiante-gratuite-09-02-2015-4519479.php%24ei%3DF8kJVduuEsmfNouogsAL%24usg%3DAFQjCNGDBWfNXqRRZE-oX3Nie2myub8EFA%24sig%3Dcxwao1aw1X7i37ElgYk9kg%24bvm%3Dbv.88198703%2Cd.eXY)

long-term unemployed experienced few benefits from the economic prosperity yet they deserved to be given a chance, “time and again.”⁶⁶¹

On 1 January 2015 Germany’s first national minimum wage came into effect.⁶⁶² The minimum wage, adopted earlier in 2014 by the National parliament, came in effect at the hourly rate of EUR8.5 with plans for an independent commission of trade union and business representatives to become responsible for future adjustments to the rate.⁶⁶³ The minimum-wage commission met for the first time on 27 February 2015 and is expected to advise in 2016 on how much to adjust the national minimum hourly rate effective January 2017.⁶⁶⁴

On 26 January 2015 Minister Nahles launched a wide-ranging job creation scheme to tackle long-term unemployment with joint funding from the German government (EUR4.3 billion) and from the European Commission’s European Social Fund (EUR2.7 billion).⁶⁶⁵ Up to 38% of the total resources allocated will be devoted to the promotion of social inclusion and combating poverty. Moreover, the scheme is expected to help 73,000 long-term unemployed people, 150,000 migrants, and 100,000 youth from socially disadvantaged backgrounds to get the qualifications they need to secure employment.⁶⁶⁶

On 25 February 2015 the European Commission adopted the national operational programmes for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD; “EHAP” in German) for 2014-2020, supporting efforts to help Europe’s most vulnerable people. The fund allows each member to define the target group of ‘most deprived persons’ in its national Operational Programme.⁶⁶⁷ Germany’s operational program for 2015 aims its focus on assistance for people suffering from (or threatened by) homelessness and the most deprived of European Union migrants (e.g. access to early education and social inclusion for migrant children), by improving their access to material support and social services.⁶⁶⁸ The FEAD in Germany will act as a bridge-mechanism, providing enhanced guidance and orientation services to help socially disadvantaged people to better reach existing social support measures. Germany has thus used the Fund it to strengthen its national social protection framework.

⁶⁶¹ Langzeitarbeitslosigkeit bekämpfen, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 15 December 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Themen/Arbeitsmarkt/Meldungen/zweites-gespraech-langzeitarbeitslosigkeit.html>

⁶⁶² Minimum wage in effect! Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/EN/Service/Press/recent-publications/minimum-wage-in-effect.html?nn=46180>

⁶⁶³ German Parliament Approves Minimum Wage From 2015, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 3 July 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/german-parliament-approves-minimum-wage-from-2015-1404386860>

⁶⁶⁴ "Mindestlohn-Kommission stärkt die Tarifautonomie" Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 February 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/milokommission-erste-sitzung.html>

⁶⁶⁵ Germany's Nahles launches big job scheme, Deutsche Welle (Bonn/Berlin) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.dw.de/germanys-nahles-launches-big-job-scheme/a-18215856>

⁶⁶⁶ In die Menschen in Europa investieren: Neue EU-Sozialfonds-Förderung in Deutschland gestartet, European Commission Representation in Germany (Berlin) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/deutschland/press/pr_releases/13028_de.htm

⁶⁶⁷ Fighting poverty: Commission commits €3.8 billion to help the most vulnerable in Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4513_en.htm

⁶⁶⁸ Der EHAP kann starten, Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (Berlin) 27 February 2015. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmas.de/DE/Service/Presse/Pressemitteilungen/ehap-kann-starten.htm>

Germany has implemented initiatives targeting long-term unemployment through social participation, the implementation of minimum wage legislation and improving access to social services. Therefore, Germany has been awarded a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to address long-term unemployment through social protection systems.

On 22 January 2015 Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi implemented the Beti Bachao Bet Padhao scheme to improve the child sex ratio. This policy is being carried out by the Women and Child Development Ministry who are in charge of respecting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of women and children. By closing the gender gap in India this policy will be able to improve gender equality in the labour force.⁶⁶⁹

In the Prime Minister's 23 February 2015 address, he announced the presence of One Stop Crisis Centres which are now located in every state and are used as medical centres, for police assistance, temporary shelter, and counselling services.⁶⁷⁰ A further initiative to ensure women's safety in New Delhi was launched as a mobile application — Himmat — and includes many features to ensure women's safety.⁶⁷¹

On 23 February 2015, Prime Minister Modi stated that creating food processing infrastructure in rural areas was of the utmost importance. India has pledged “to provide affordable credit to the units in 72 ... food parks,” with two of the major ones, Tumkur and Fazilka to provide employment to 30,000 people.⁶⁷²

Modi also announced the promotion of micro, small and medium enterprises. He announced his commitment to expanding the Indian job market, and ensuring the welfare of all workers. In his address, Modi also raised India's statutory wage ceiling and the minimum pension to ensure fair compensation for casual workers.

India has taken several measures to create appropriate social protection systems in order to comply with its commitment to long-term unemployment. These systems include those aimed at creating

⁶⁶⁹ PM Modi launches 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' campaign, says female foeticide is a sign of 'mental illness', The Times of India (New Delhi), 23 January 2015. Access Date: 5 April 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-launches-Beti-Bachao-Beti-Padhao-campaign-says-female-foeticide-is-a-sign-of-mental-illness/articleshow/45985741.cms>

⁶⁷⁰ Full Text of President Pranab Mukherjee's Budget address, The Times of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Full-text-of-President-Pranab-Mukherjees-Budget-address/articleshow/46340874.cms>

⁶⁷¹ Delhi police give 'Himmat' to women, launch safety app, The Times of India (New Delhi) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/Delhi-police-give-Himmat-to-women-launch-safety-app/articleshow/45716222.cms>

⁶⁷² Full Text of President Pranab Mukherjee's Budget address, The Times of India (New Delhi) 23 February 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Full-text-of-President-Pranab-Mukherjees-Budget-address/articleshow/46340874.cms>

gender equality in the workplace, counselling services, the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises and raising the wage ceiling. Therefore, India receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Mercedes Fogarassy

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment.

In its Individual Employment Plan, released at the Brisbane Summit, Indonesia set its core commitments to battle unemployment as enhancing the mobility of workers from the informal to the formal sector, enhancing the capacity of training institutions, improving skills development, adjusting labour relations and ensuring sufficient training to enhance the negotiation skills of both employers and employees.⁶⁷³

On 8 January 2015, President Joko Widodo signed the Presidential Decree No. 2 of 2015, entitled the National Medium Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for the period 2015-2019.⁶⁷⁴ The RPJMN reaffirms Indonesia's efforts through RPJN 2005-2025 to implement social protection systems reform by addressing areas including, but not limited to, expansion of benefits coverage, improving the quality of benefits, and the financial sustainability of social security schemes.⁶⁷⁵ Through this initiative, Indonesia plans to double the number of workers in its employment social security program in the formal sector (from 30 million to 60 million people) and to increase the coverage in the informal sector (from 1.3 million to 3.5 million people).

On 23 February 2015, the Bank Negara Indonesia (BNI), the country's central bank, opened its House of Education for Indonesia Migrant Workers, a pilot project to empower and educate Indonesia's migrant workers and their families.⁶⁷⁶ The initiative is a part of BNI's wider commitment to support programmes carried out by Financial Services Authority, Bank Indonesia and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection.

Indonesia has implemented few social protection policies within the compliance period targeting long-term unemployment. Therefore, Indonesia receives a compliance score of 0.

Analysts: Max Stern and Caitlin Gillespie

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with the commitment to address long-term unemployment through social protection systems.

⁶⁷³ Employment Plan 2014: Indonesia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 5 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_indonesia.pdf

⁶⁷⁴ Government has issued Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019, Sekretariat Kabinet Republik Indonesia (Jakarta) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. <http://setkab.go.id/en/government-has-issued-medium-term-development-plan-2015-2019/>

⁶⁷⁵ Indonesia: The third National Medium Term Development Plan 2015-2019 has been released with provisions for the expansion of the social protection system, International Labour Office (Geneva) 12 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015.

<http://www.socialsecurityextension.org/gimi/gess/ShowNews.action;jsessionid=7ebd1e69880a75e291867be72ebaea9b87732aa01356be93e1c21e79cc67dcb3.e3aTbhuLbNmSe34MchaRahaKbNz0?id=20170>

⁶⁷⁶ BNI builds house of education for Indonesian migrant workers, Jakarta Globe (Jakarta) 24 February 2015. Access Date: 19 March 2015. <http://thejakartaglobe.beritasatu.com/press-release/bni-built-house-education-indonesian-migrant-workers/>

At the 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit, Italy released an Individual Employment Plan, outlining a number of new social policy measures directed at improving economic growth conducive to reducing the unemployment rate.⁶⁷⁷ The key objectives include: rationalizing and extending social welfare coverage to all workers in both temporary layoffs and involuntary unemployment, and increasing female employment, while pursuing effective gender equality in the workforce by reconciling work and family life.

On 3 December 2014, Prime Minister Matteo Renzi gained the confidence vote of the Italian Senate and passed the Jobs Act.⁶⁷⁸ The Jobs Act focuses on four areas that include: weakening employment protection to reduce unemployment and increasing the employment rate; reducing dualism in the labour market; strengthening social security through an unemployment benefits program; and improving training and job-finding services.⁶⁷⁹

On 31 December 2014, employment statistics compiled by Italy's Comprehensive Growth Plan indicate an anticipated drop in the unemployment rate from 12.6% in January 2014 to 12.5% in 2015.⁶⁸⁰

On 7 January 2015, statistics revealed that the Italian unemployment rate had risen to a record high of 13.4%.⁶⁸¹

Italy has taken few actions to combat long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems that aim to create long-term quality jobs. Italy has taken action to implement policies focusing on job security, particularly towards youth, yet has failed to implement policies focusing on improving women or other underprivileged groups' participation in the workforce within the compliance cycle. Thus, Italy receives a compliance score of -1.

Analyst: Frances Kessler

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, Japan released an Individual Employment Plan for social protection reform. It focuses on the safety net system and includes a proposal for substantial expansion in job assistance and independence support for needy households.⁶⁸² The proposed programs aim to help welfare recipients leave assistance programs by taking on stable jobs, as well as providing comprehensive consultation and training to prepare for employment.

⁶⁷⁷ Employment Plan 2014: Italy, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_italy.pdf

⁶⁷⁸ Italy's Renzi wins confidence vote on Jobs Act, Financial Times (London) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/fastft/245611/renzi-labour-reform-passes-italian-senate>

⁶⁷⁹ Italy's Job Act: where is the evidence?, Open Democracy (Italy) 13 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/can-europe-make-it/andrea-capussela-vito-intini/italy%27s-jobs-act-where-is-evidence>

⁶⁸⁰ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Italy, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_italy.pdf

⁶⁸¹ Italy Unemployment Rises to New High, Showing Europe Divergence, Bloomberg Business (Rome) 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-01-07/italy-jobless-rate-reaches-record-amid-growth-outlook-concerns>

⁶⁸² Employment Plan 2014: Japan, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_japan.pdf

On 12 February 2015, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe delivered a policy speech to the 189th session of the Diet that outlined a number of measures related to social protections plans. These measures include: assistance for medical expenses for people suffering from incurable diseases and low-income earners; new childcare services for low-income households raising families; the promotion of men's participation in childcare services; and the encouragement of women's participation in the work force.⁶⁸³

Prime Minister Abe has addressed the importance of women's participation in a number of speeches since the 2014 Brisbane Summit, in addition to the 189th session of the Diet. On 7 December 2014, Prime Minister Abe announced he will be pursuing "womenomics" as a core part of social and economic policies that focuses on raising the participation of women in the workforce.⁶⁸⁴

Japan has announced actions to combat long-term unemployment through social protection programs but did not start implementing them during the compliance period. Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Frances Kessler

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment and to create an appropriate social protection system.

In its 2015 *Going for Growth* report evaluating structural reforms of member countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) advised Korea to increase women's participation in the labour market so as to mitigate the negative impact of the rapid population aging.⁶⁸⁵ The OECD also noted Korea's low productivity while having some of the longest working hours in the organization as a problem and criticized the large gap in wages, job protection and social insurance between regular and non-regular contracts.⁶⁸⁶

On 22 December 2014, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance released the 2015 *Economic Policy Directions*, which focuses on fostering customized job training and improving education to ease discrepancies in supply and demand for workers.⁶⁸⁷

On 23 December 2014 the Economic and Social Development Commission (ESDC), a social dialogue body with participation from labour, management, government and public interest groups, agreed to resolve by March 2015 priority issues such as "increasing flexibility in the labour market, improving the social safety net and solving income polarization between regular and non-regular workers." Finance Minister Choi Kyung-hwan highlighted the importance of reforms but was also quoted as saying the "overprotection of permanent workers, especially those at well-unionized

⁶⁸³ Policy Speech by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the 189th Session of the Diet, Prime Minister and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201502/policy.html

⁶⁸⁴ Japan leans in: Shinzo Abe's push for womenomics, World Finance (London) 21 January 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.worldfinance.com/strategy/japan-leans-in-shinzo-abes-push-for-womenomics>

⁶⁸⁵ Economic Policy Reforms 2015 - Going for Growth, Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation (Paris) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.keepeek.com/Digital-Asset-Management/ocd/economics/economic-policy-reforms-2015_growth-2015-en#page235

⁶⁸⁶ OECD recommends encouraging female employment, The Korea Times (Seoul) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/biz/2015/02/602_173319.html

⁶⁸⁷ 2015 Economic Policy Directions, Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Sejong-si) 22 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://english.mosf.go.kr/pre/view.do?bcd=N0001&seq=3750&bPage=1>

companies” was one of the root causes of income polarization.⁶⁸⁸ His remarks drew widespread criticism for suggesting that in order to enhance the rights of temporary workers regular workers would have to make some sacrifices.⁶⁸⁹

On 30 December 2014, at the Special Labour Market Restructuring Committee of the Korean Tripartite Committee, a presidential advisory body on labour, the Ministry of Employment and Labour presented proposed changes to improve non-regular work conditions.⁶⁹⁰ The measures included increasing the length of non-regular contracts from two to a maximum of four years and tackling other differences in working conditions between regular and non-regular contract employees which are widely seen as a source of inequality.⁶⁹¹ Industry observers highlighted the fact that issues of employee termination had not yet been discussed and strong opposition from the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions was anticipated.⁶⁹²

On 30 December 2014 the government indicated it would increase fines for employers who do not comply with minimum wage laws.⁶⁹³ On 9 January 2015, the Ministry of Employment and Labour signed an agreement with several large employers who employ sub-contract workers, regularizing social protection measures for them, such as employment security, improved health and safety in their working conditions and welfare provisions.⁶⁹⁴

On 31 December 2014, the Korean government announced the launch of Swiss-inspired dual vocational schools and expanded apprenticeship schemes to promote youth employment. The government also committed to increase funding for employers who adopt the wage peak system, an income-averaging scheme to extend the de facto retirement age of older workers, thus allowing the option for workers to remain in the labour force longer.⁶⁹⁵

On 11 January 2015 the government announced that it would launch a crackdown on the so-called “passion pay” practice whereby employers exploit young people as cheap labour, expecting them to work for their “passion” at below the minimum wage levels.⁶⁹⁶

⁶⁸⁸ Labor market reform agreed, The Korea Times (Seoul) 23 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/12/113_170410.html

⁶⁸⁹ Finance Ministry seeks easy way out of labor divide, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 1 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141201001016>

⁶⁹⁰ Non-regular worker policy, The Korea Times (Seoul) 30 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/opinion/2014/12/137_170821.html

⁶⁹¹ Irregular staff offered better terms, The Korea Times (Seoul) 29 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2014/12/113_170727.html

⁶⁹² The Asia Employment Law Landscape in 2015 - South Korea: proposed refinement of the labor market, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP (London) 4 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

http://www.freshfields.com/en/knowledge/The_Asia_Employment_Law_Landscape_in_2015/?LangId=2057#southkorea:proposedrefinementofthelabormarket

⁶⁹³ Ministry to slap fine on firms violating minimum wage law, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 30 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141230001079> The Korea Herald

⁶⁹⁴ MOEL hears opinions of field experts to seek ways to promote employment security and reduce gap for non-regular workers, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Sejong-si) 9 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

<http://m.moel.go.kr/EngNewsView?seq=1087>

⁶⁹⁵ Old, young to get more job opportunities, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 31 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20141230001021>

⁶⁹⁶ Gov't to crack down on possible abuse of young workers, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 11 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150111000258>

On 18 February 2015, the Ministry of Employment and Labour announced higher penalties for employers who delay paying their employees for more than four months (from 50% of the owed payment to double the owed wages).⁶⁹⁷

On 20 January 2015 the state-run Industrial Bank of Korea announced it will double its number of new recruits this year, effort to support the government's plan to reduce a record-high unemployment rate.⁶⁹⁸

On 24 February 2015, President Park Geun-hye stated that economic revival will be the top priority over the upcoming months, with core agenda items to include labour market reform.⁶⁹⁹

Korea has taken steps to improve the social protection system as well as make labour market reform one of its top priority for 2015. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sabina Mihaescu

Mexico: +1

Mexico has complied with its commitment to address long-term unemployment by implementing appropriate social protection systems.

On 21 November 2014, President Enrique Peña Nieto, announced the opening of the City for Women's Health services centre. It will provide healthcare services, protection and aid to sexual violence victims in addition to prevention services.⁷⁰⁰

On 26 November 2014, the labour ministers and representatives of governments at the Latin American meeting of ministers of labour declared their support for the Mexican government's actions to develop the economy through social development. They stressed the importance of dialogue about social protection programs. The ministers agreed to a Bank of Good Practices on Labour Inspection in Latin America, which would allow the transfer of information between nations to develop better strategies. They also signed the Latin American and the Caribbean Free Child Labour Regional Initiative to combat child labour.⁷⁰¹

On 19 December 19 2014, the Council of Representative of the National Minimum Wage Commission (CONASAMI) agreed to an increase in minimum wage in two different geographical regions starting on 1 January 2015. In one region, the new minimum wage will be 70.10 pesos a day, and in the other, 66.45 pesos per day.⁷⁰²

⁶⁹⁷ Late-paying employers face bigger fines Lee Ji-hye, The Korea Times (Seoul) 18 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2015/02/113_173846.html

⁶⁹⁸ IBK to double recruitment this year: CEO Kwon, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150120000959>

⁶⁹⁹ President prioritizes economic revival, Korean Culture and Information Service (Sejong-si) 24 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=125801&pageIndex=1>

⁷⁰⁰ Inauguration of the City for Women's Health, The President of Mexico Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 11 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/inauguration-of-the-city-for-womens-health/>

⁷⁰¹ Ministros Iberoamericanos Respaldan Reformas Estructurales Impulsadas Por El Gobierno Federal, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Cancún) 26 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/noviembre/bol_332.html

⁷⁰² Boletín Informativo. Comisión Nacional De Los Salarios Mínimos (CONASAMI) Salarios Mínimos 2015, The Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (México) 19 December 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/diciembre/bol_conasami.html

On 7 January 2015, the President, Enrique Peña Nieto, and US President Barack Obama signed a letter of intent for the Mexico-United States Internship Program. This program encourages student internships in both countries and encourages the link between education and job prosperity.⁷⁰³

On 19 January 2015, Alfonso Navarrete Prida, the Secretary of Labour and Social Welfare, signed a General Collaboration Agreement for Persons with Disabilities with the Director General of the Institute of National Housing Fund for Workers (INFORAVIT). It promotes the “Home Made Measure” program that would provide housing for workers with disabilities. It would also offer tax incentives to companies that hire people with disabilities.⁷⁰⁴

On 9 February 2015, the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) and the Institute for Social Security and Services for State workers (ISSSTE) introduced a voucher program for pharmaceutical drugs. The program would provide the public with access to safe medicines.⁷⁰⁵

On 16 February 2015, Paula Hernandez Olmos, the National Coordinator of the PROSPERA Social Inclusion Programme, announced a change in tactics in the Opportunity Program. She stressed the change from simply providing assistance to promoting the accumulation of income.⁷⁰⁶

On 25 February 2015, Ruby Ignacio Salazar, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare, called for workplaces to follow the Family Friendly Company 2015, that aims to provide better living conditions for workers and encourages a work-family balance. The goal for 2015 is to get 350 companies to commit.⁷⁰⁷

Mexico has implemented a number of social protection programs, including those targeted at living conditions, access to healthcare services, minimum wage increases and international internship partnership agreements. Mexico has fully complied with its commitment and is thus awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Emily Shaw

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on addressing long-term unemployment.

On 22 January 2015, the Russian government adopted the procedure of providing subsidies to the Russian regions aimed at reducing tensions in the labour market through active policies. The state budget provides for more than RUB52 billion to carry out these policies.⁷⁰⁸ On 28 March 2015,

⁷⁰³ Mexico and United States, Committed to Joint Prosperity, The President of Mexico Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/mexico-and-the-united-states-committed-to-joint-prosperity/>

⁷⁰⁴ Firman STPS E Infonavit Convenio De Colaboración en favor de personas con discapacidad, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 19 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2015/enero/bol_362.html

⁷⁰⁵ Voucher Program Medicines for IMSS and ISSSTE, Mexican Social Security Institution (Mexico City) February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.imss.gob.mx/prensa/archivo/201502/012>

⁷⁰⁶ PROSPERA encourage productive capacities, the best way to end poverty, PROSPERA Social Inclusion Programme (Veracruz) 16 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. https://www.prospera.gob.mx/Portal/wb/Web/prospera_fomenta_las_capacidades_productivas

⁷⁰⁷ Emite STPS Convocatoria Para Obtener El “Distintivo Emperesa Familiarmente Responsable 2015”, Mexican Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare Information Bulletin (Mexico City) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2015/febrero/bol_383.html

⁷⁰⁸ On additional measures to reduce tensions in the labor market, Government of Russia 26 January 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/16603/>

RUB1,870 of funds were allocated to help four Russian regions keep 35,000 people in employment.⁷⁰⁹ On 29 May 2015, additional RUB635 million were allocated to the other four regions benefiting more than 20,000 employed people.⁷¹⁰

On 2 April 2015, Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting to discuss the situation in the labour market. The participants discussed the employment programmes implemented in the regions, measures to reduce unemployment and support for small and medium-sized enterprises implemented as part of the government's action plan for sustainable development of the national economy and stability in the social sector in 2015. Russian Labour and Social Security minister Maksim Topilin mentioned that RUB15 billion had been reserved in the state budget to implement extraordinary measures, including the provision of additional unemployment benefits if the situation in the labour market worsens.⁷¹¹

Russia has implemented policies to address long-term unemployment through both active labour market programs and relevant social protection measures. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, Saudi Arabia released an Individual Employment Plan stating that it would launch Telework, a program to establish a technological platform for long-distance work in sectors such as accounting, telemarketing, and customer support. This program would provide employment for women and people with disabilities in particular.⁷¹² The Saudi Arabian government followed through on the promised project launch/trial at the end of 2014, with a full-scale roll out anticipated in 2015.⁷¹³ Saudi Arabia's Individual Employment Plan stated that it would provide or subsidize daycare centres in order to allow mothers to work and to develop early childhood education. The plan commits to a pilot stage launched in 2015 and a full-scale roll out in 2016.

Saudi Arabia's Individual Employment Plan also promised to ease the costs of employee transportation on employers. Since women are not permitted to drive in Saudi Arabia, this assistance would allow more of them to enter the workforce. Draft policy options were promised for the first quarter of 2015 with implementation throughout the year.⁷¹⁴

In their Individual Employment Plan, Saudi Arabia also committed to facilitating a smooth transition from education to work through two career education programs: the Strategy Track and the Fast

⁷⁰⁹ On allocation of subsidies to the Russian regions in 2015 to implement additional measures in the labor market, Government of Russia 31 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/17466/>.

⁷¹⁰ On allocation of subsidies to the Russian regions in 2015 to implement additional measures in the labor market, Government of Russia 3 June 2015. Access date: 16 June 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/18336/>.

⁷¹¹ Meeting on labour market, President of Russia 2 April 2015. Access date: 16 June 2015. <http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/49059>.

⁷¹² Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

⁷¹³ 'Work from Home' Project to Begin Next Month, Arab News (Riyadh) 6 December 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-araba/news/670456>

⁷¹⁴ Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

Track.⁷¹⁵ The Strategy Track is meant to develop a comprehensive career education and development system. According to their Individual Employment Plan, this program is still in development and is expected to trial in 2015. The Fast Track is meant to provide career education and development providers with the means to grow capacity and achieve “fast impact.”

On 19 November 2014, The Ministry of Housing pledged SR2.5 billion to build 6,204 units of affordable housing.⁷¹⁶ However, affordable housing and such programs are only intended for families. Single citizens are not eligible to apply for housing support programs.⁷¹⁷

In December 2014, the Ministry of Labour announced new measures to decrease the number of barriers that prevent women from joining the work force. One prominent new measure allows breastfeeding in the workplace.⁷¹⁸

On 4 January 2015, Minister of Labour Adel Fakeih announced that the government planned to create 300,000 private sector jobs and “launch 36 initiatives as part of the scheme.”⁷¹⁹ These include initiatives to employ women and summer training programs for university students.⁷²⁰ No roll out timeline has been announced.

The Saudi Arabian government added a measure to the existing Nitaqat program — a program geared towards incentivizing Saudi Arabia’s private sector to create more job opportunities for nationals — that provides incentives for employers to hire people with disabilities.⁷²¹

On 27 January 2015, Labour Minister Adel Fakeih stressed the need of reducing the country’s dependence on expatriate workers and awarding more jobs to nationals at the Global Competitiveness Forum 2015 in Riyadh. He stated that Saudi Arabia’s focus was “to train the local manpower with the needed skills to phase out the foreign workers.”⁷²²

On 7 January 2015, the Council of Saudi Chambers asked the labour minister to delay the third phase of the Nitaqat program, extending the deadline by two to three years from the initial start date of 20 April 2015. This request came after the previous phase of the program showed a low turnout of

⁷¹⁵ Employment Plan 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_saudi_arabia.pdf

⁷¹⁶ SR2.5bn to be Disbursed to Build 6204 Housing Units, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 November 2014. Access Date: 21 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/662671>

⁷¹⁷ For Housing Ministry, Families Are Top Priority, Arab News (Jeddah) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/701791>

⁷¹⁸ Breast-Feeding Break at Work, Arab News (Riyadh) 16 December 2014. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/675171>

⁷¹⁹ Govt To Create 300,000 Jobs for Saudis, Arab News (Jeddah) 4 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/684171?quicktabs_stat2=0

⁷²⁰ Saudi Arabia To Create 300,000 Private Sector Jobs For Locals, Gulf Business (Dubai) 4 January 2015. Access Date: 24 February 2015. <http://gulfbusiness.com/2015/01/saudi-arabia-create-300000-private-sector-jobs-locals/#.VO0MGYdN3zL>

⁷²¹ Nitawat: Terms for the Disabled to be Counted As More Than One, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 30 November 2014. Access Date: 22 February 2015.

<http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/index.cfm?method=home.regcon&contentid=20141201226130>

⁷²² Skills Drive Needed to Boost Saudi Work Force, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 January 2015. Access Date: 21 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/695841>

Saudi nationals pursuing private sector jobs. The council feared that this lack of participation would also be an issue for the next phase of the program.⁷²³

Saudi Arabia has announced some initiatives for social protection programs, such as those targeting female labour force participation, training programs and increased transportation networks. Therefore, Saudi Arabia receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Katerina Stamadianos

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

On 25 November 2015, the labour minister and the Department of Labour developed a new wage structure for domestic workers allowing for the upward adjustment of the minimum wage. The minimum wage will now be between R9.80 and R10.59 if the workers work more than 27 hours per week and between R10.86 and R12.40 if they work less than 27 hours per week, depending on geographical location.⁷²⁴

On 2 December 2015, Labour Deputy Minister iNkosi Phathekile Holomisa launched a new employment service for citizens of Richards Bay and nearby areas. It includes job training services and job search services. It also includes self-help kiosks facilities that will be free for employers and job seekers.⁷²⁵

On 7 January 2015, the Department of Labour implemented a new minimum wage for contract cleaners. They will now earn between R15.47 per hour and R16.98.⁷²⁶

On 28 January 2015, Labour Minister Mildred Oliphant announced adjustments to farmworkers' minimum wage. They would now earn a wage of R2606.78 per month, with an hourly rate of R13.37. The policy is in effect as of 1 March 2015.⁷²⁷

On 3 February 2015, the Department of Labour held discussions with the private security sector to review minimum wage and to improve working conditions.⁷²⁸

⁷²³ CSC Asks Labor Ministry to Delay 3rd Phase of Nitaqat By 3 Years, Arab News (Jeddah) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/featured/news/685796>

⁷²⁴ Labour Minister Oliphant upwardly adjusts domestic workers; annual wages, The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 25 November 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2014/labour-minister-oliphant-upwardly-adjusts-domestic-workers2019-annual-wages>

⁷²⁵ Labour Deputy Minister iNkosi Holomisa to officially launch a self-help service in Richards Bay, The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 3 December 2014. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-alerts/labour-deputy-minister-inkosi-holomisa-to-officially-launch-a-self-help-service-for-work-seekers-in-richards-bay>

⁷²⁶ New minimum wage for contract cleaning in 2015. The Republic of South Africa Department for Labour (Pretoria) 7 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/new-minimum-wage-for-contract-cleaning-in-2015>

⁷²⁷ Labour Minister Oliphant increases farmworkers wage by 7.7% percent in 2015/16, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 28 January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/labour-minister-oliphant-increases-farmworkers-minimum-wage-by-7-7-percent-in-2015-16>

On 3 February 2015, the Department of Labour increased the minimum wage for worker in the Wholesale and Retail sectors. The increase in wages is between 6.1% and 8.1% and it is under the terms of the Basic Conditions of Employment Act.⁷²⁹

On 17 February 2015, the Department of Labour stated that, under the Employment Service Act of 2014, private employment services are no longer able to charge for their services to those looking for work.⁷³⁰

On 26 February 2015, the National Senior Commissioner, Winnie Evert, of the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration announced that the discrimination of workers through unequal pay was officially prohibited under the Employment Equity Act.⁷³¹

South Africa has implemented initiatives targeting minimum wage standards in various sectors of its economy, but has not taken action on other social protection systems aimed at combating long-term unemployment. Therefore, South Africa receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Emily Shaw

Turkey: –1

Turkey has not complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

In its G20 Employment Plan 2014, Turkey outlined the country's goal to raise female participation in the labour force from 30.8% to 41% by 2023, while reducing the informal employment of women from 54.2% to 30% by the same year.⁷³²

On 26-27 November 2014, the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) hosted an International Job and Vocational Counselling Congress in Antalya, Turkey. In his opening speech, the Director General of İŞKUR Dr. Nusret Yazıcı, pointed out that in the first 10 months of 2014, İŞKUR provided employment guidance and counselling services to approximately 1,540,000 people.⁷³³ In the

⁷²⁸ Department of Labour invites private security stakeholders to public hearings to review minimum wage, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/department-of-labour-invites-private-security-stakeholders-to-public-hearings-to-review-minimum-wage>

⁷²⁹ Wholesale and Retail Sector minimum wage adjusted upward from beginning of February, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/wholesale-and-retail-sector-minimum-wage-adjusted-upward-from-beginning-of-february>

⁷³⁰ Private employment agencies (PEAs) are prohibited from charging work seekers any fees for service rendered, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 17 February 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/private-employment-agencies-peas-are-prohibited-from-charging-work-seekers-any-fees-for-service-rendered>

⁷³¹ Unfair remuneration and discriminatory treatment in the workplace illegal- delegates told the Department of Labour/CCMA roadshow, The Republic of South Africa Department of Labour (Pretoria) 26 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.labour.gov.za/DOL/media-desk/media-statements/2015/unfair-remuneration-and-discriminatory-treatment-in-the-workplace-illegal-delegates-told-at-department-of-labour-ccma-roadshow>

⁷³² Employment Plan 2014: Turkey, G20 (Brisbane) 2014. Date of Access: 14 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_turkey.pdf

⁷³³ International Job and Vocation Counselling Congress held in Antalya on November 26-27, 2014, Turkish Employment Agency (Ankara) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/News/TabId/190/ArtMID/1300/ArticleID/459/II-International-Job-and-Vocational-Counselling-Congress-held-in-Antalya-on-November-26th-27th-2014.aspx>

same time period, the İŞKUR visited 340,000 workplaces and gave employers information on vocational training and on-the-job training.

On 8 December 2014, the opening conference of “Financing and Counselling Support for Women Enterprises Programme,” a project aimed at promoting female entrepreneurship in Turkey, was jointly carried out by İŞKUR and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Dr. Yazıcı stated that financial and counselling support for women enterprises marked a “significant milestone in economic and social development of the country,” and reaffirmed İŞKUR’s role in this project of enhancing female entrepreneurship and employment.⁷³⁴

On 30 December 2014, the Minister of Labour and Social Security Faruk Çelik announced that Turkey’s minimum wage for workers over the age of 16 will be raised in two phases in 2015. Monthly wages will increase from YTL846 to YTL949 in the first half of 2015 before reaching YTL1000 by the year’s end.⁷³⁵ As a result, 5 million people’s salaries will increase by approximately 12.3% in 2015.⁷³⁶

On 27 February 2015, the Deputy Undersecretary of Turkey’s Ministry for European Union Affairs, Ahmet Yucel, signed a 7-year employment plan with the EU Commission alongside Marianne Thyssen, the EU Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility. The EUR930 million “Employment and Social Innovation Program” aims to provide Turkey with long-term sustainable and quality employment, while combating poverty, improving work conditions, and ensuring decent social protection.⁷³⁷ The program is part of Turkey’s plan to accede to the EU and will be coordinated by the Turkish Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

Turkey has implemented minimum wage increases and is participating in sustainable employment initiatives. Therefore, Turkey receives a compliance score of -1.

Analyst: Yinan Yang

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the United Kingdom released an Individual Employment plan, stating that it would 1) develop passive strategies and redesign benefits to avoid distorting labour market behaviour; 2) create active strategies that would draw people closer to work as a condition of benefits; 3) Increase transparency, flexibility and mobility of job searches through The Public Employment

⁷³⁴ Opening Conference of “Financing and Counselling Support for Women Enterprises Programme,” Turkish Employment Agency (Ankara) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.iskur.gov.tr/News/TabId/190/ArtMID/1300/ArticleID/460/Opening-Conference-of-%E2%80%9CFinancing-and-Counselling-Support-for-Women-Enterprises-Programme%E2%80%9D.aspx>

⁷³⁵ Turkish minimum wage to be set at TL 949 for early 2015, BGN News (Istanbul) 30 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 February, 2015. <http://business.bgnnews.com/turkish-minimum-wage-to-be-set-at-tl-949-for-early-2015-haberi/2531>

⁷³⁶ Five million Turkish workers to get higher minimum wage, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 30 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/s/443200--five-million-turkish-workers-to-get-higher-minimum-wage>

⁷³⁷ Turkey, EU Commission agree on a 7-year employment program, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/471777--turkey-eu-commission-agree-on-7-year-employment-program>

Service (JobCentre Plus); and 4) improve the employability of selected groups by linking supply and demand and overcoming barriers, such as work place adjustment for disabled people.⁷³⁸

On 25 November 2014, the Universal Credit welfare reforms were expanded to dual and single parent families. The credit allows families on the program to claim up to 70% of their childcare expenses, with a monthly limit for one child of GBP532, and GBP912 for two or more children. The program is accessible through job centres and merges benefits to simplify the system and encourage those on benefits to enter the workforce.⁷³⁹

On 1 December 2014, Shared Parental Leave (SPL) became available to parents. The new rules allow parents to chose if they want to share 50 weeks of leave and up to 37 weeks of pay, following the mother's two weeks maternity leave.⁷⁴⁰

On 18 December 2014, employment figures released by the Department of Work and Pensions accredited record employment to the Work Programme. The policy, launched in 2011, transfers claimants from JobCentre Plus to public or private companies to aid them find employment.⁷⁴¹ The program pays companies for finding claimants long-term employment and has contributed to a significant decrease in the number of unemployed people.⁷⁴²

On 5 February 2015, The Department of Work and Pensions announced that hundreds of people previously on benefits have entered the work force as a result of the benefit cap. The policy was introduced in April 2013 and limits the amount of benefits, such as Housing Benefits, a household can receive to increase the incentives of claimants to work. Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Iain Duncan Smith, said that this part of the government's long-term economic development plan had restored fairness to the system and saved the taxpayer money.⁷⁴³

On 16 February 2015, The Department of Work and Pensions released an assessment of the impact of the Universal Credit program on increasing employment. The report notes that the credit has been effective in incentivizing claimants to look for work and move towards greater financial

⁷³⁸ Employment Plan 2014: United Kingdom, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014. Access Date: 18 March 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_united_kingdom.pdf

⁷³⁹ Welfare revolution rolls out to families: Universal Credit to be in a third of Jobcentres by spring, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 25 November 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/welfare-revolution-rolls-out-to-families-universal-credit-to-be-in-a-third-of-jobcentres-by-spring>

⁷⁴⁰ Parents can now apply for Shared Parental Leave, Department for Business, Innovation & Skills, Jo Swinson MP and Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (London) 1 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-shared-parental-leave-regulations-come-into-effect>

⁷⁴¹ Work Programme statistics, Department for Work and Pensions (London) 18 December 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/work-programme-statistics--2>

⁷⁴² The Work Programme has contributed to bringing the number of long-term unemployed people down to the lowest it has been for 5 years, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 18 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-programme-contributes-to-record-employment>

⁷⁴³ Benefit cap: 200 people into work or off Housing Benefit every week, Department of Work and Pensions and The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP (London) 5 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/benefit-cap-200-people-into-work-or-off-housing-benefit-every-week>

independence. In 2015 the department will be expanding the program to single unemployed claimants and to benefits such as housing.⁷⁴⁴

On 20 February 2015, Department of Work and Pensions announced an increase in the number of disabled people working as a result of the government's Disability Confidence campaign. Minister of State for Disabled People, Mark Harper noted that it was encouraging to see an increasing number of disabled women in employment. The campaign works to remove barriers of employment by tackling the misconceptions of employers.⁷⁴⁵

The United Kingdom has implemented a small amount of social protection systems aimed at decreasing long-term unemployment, while noting the success of previously implemented social protection systems. Therefore, the United Kingdom receives a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Alison Blagden

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the United States released an Individual Employment Plan stating that they would take measures to combat long-term unemployment by “working with the private sector to develop a set of best practices for hiring and recruiting the long-term unemployed” and reforming federal hiring practices.⁷⁴⁶ The United States released their “Best Practices For Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed” before the compliance cycle, in January 2014.⁷⁴⁷ Other important social protection measures implemented before the compliance period include the Affordable Care Act and paid leave initiatives.

In accordance with their Individual Employment Plan, the United States granted USD170 million to the Ready to Work Partnership, a project set up to help the long-term unemployed find jobs. This grant occurred outside of the compliance period, on 15 October 2014.⁷⁴⁸

On 15 September 2015 the United States Senate blocked the Paycheck Fairness Act that supported equal pay laws for women.⁷⁴⁹

On 11 December 2014, US President Barack Obama pledged USD100 million to apprenticeships for American workers as a “path to the middle class.”⁷⁵⁰

⁷⁴⁴ Universal Credit at Work Spring 2015, Department of Work and Pensions (London) February 2015. Date of Access : 1 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/405921/uc-at-work-spring-2015.pdf

⁷⁴⁵ 400 more disabled people in work every day, Department of Work and Pensions and Mark Harper MP (London) 20 February 2015. Date of Access : 1 March 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-more-disabled-people-in-work-every-day>

⁷⁴⁶ Employment Plan 2014: United States, G20 (Brisbane) November 2015. Date of Access: 18 March 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_united_states.pdf

⁷⁴⁷ Best Practices For Recruiting and Hiring the Long-Term Unemployed, White House (Washington) January 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/best_practices_recruiting_longterm_unemployed.pdf

⁷⁴⁸ Nearly \$170M in Ready to Work Partnership Grants Awarded To Help Long-Term Unemployed Americans Find Work, Department of Labor (Washington) 15 October 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2015.

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20141956.htm>

⁷⁴⁹ Paycheck Fairness Act Blocked Again By Senate GOP, Huffington Post (United States) 15 September 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/15/paycheck-fairness-act_n_5825644.html

On 21 January 2015, President Obama unveiled a plan to provide affordable childcare, which included expanding the access to childcare to all families with a child less than four years of age, and increasing the possible credit received from the government per child up to USD3,000. The President also promised USD100 million to childcare subsidy research.⁷⁵¹

On 23 January 2015, in accordance with the USD158 million investment for re-employment for insurance beneficiaries mentioned in the Individual Action Plan, the Department of Labor granted USD4.6 million to Kentucky workers displaced by widespread layoffs of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and GE Aviation. These funds will go towards providing these individuals with “comprehensive re-employment services.”⁷⁵²

On 28 January 2015, the United States Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs proposed an update to the rules designed to prohibit workplace discrimination based on sex. This updates would tackle pay discrimination, sexual harassment, hostile work environments, the provision of workplace accommodations for pregnant women, discrimination based on gender identity, and family caregiving discrimination.⁷⁵³

On 29 January 2015, the United States Department of Labor announced that it would award USD38 million in grants to enhancing their Short-Time Compensation program. This is intended to help states avoid layoffs by implementing measures such as work sharing, where workers are given less hours as an alternative to being laid off, but are also given a percentage of the unemployment compensation they would receive had they been laid off, due to their decrease in income.⁷⁵⁴ On 3 February 2015, the United States released “Recruiting, Hiring, and Promoting People with Disabilities,” a resource guide for employers and a product of the ‘Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative,’ which works to provide employment opportunities and financial independence for those with disabilities.⁷⁵⁵ This was an update to the creation of the “Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative,” launched on 22 July 2014. Despite Congress failing to raise the minimum wage from USD7.25 to USD10.10 as proposed in their Individual Employment Plan, 21 states raised the minimum wage in January 2015.⁷⁵⁶

⁷⁵⁰President Obama Launches Competitions for New Manufacturing Innovation Hubs and American Apprenticeship Grants, White House (Washington) 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/11/fact-sheet-president-obama-launches-competitions-new-manufacturing-innov>

⁷⁵¹Helping All Working Families With Young Children Afford Child Care, White House (Washington) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/21/fact-sheet-helping-all-working-families-young-children-afford-child-care>

⁷⁵² Kentucky Workers Displaced by Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and GE Aviation Layoffs Helped By \$4.6M Labor Department Re-Employment Grant, Department of Labor (Washington) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20150131.htm>

⁷⁵³OFCCP Proposes Updated Sex Discrimination Rule, Department of Labor (Washington) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/SDNPRM/index.html>

⁷⁵⁴ Short-time Compensation Programs Expand in 13 States With Nearly \$38 in Grants to Prevent Layoffs, Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (Washington) 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. http://www.doleta.gov/ETA_News_Releases/20150155.cfm

⁷⁵⁵Recruiting, Hiring, Retraining, and Promoting People with Disabilities, Curb Cuts to the Middle Class Initiative, White House (Washington) 3 February 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2015. http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/employing_people_with_disabilities_toolkit_february_3_2015_v4.pdf

⁷⁵⁶Forget Congress, These US States Raised the Minimum Wage on their Own, The Guardian (United States) 1 January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/money/2015/jan/01/forget-congress-states-raise-minimum-wage-2015>

The United States has implemented several social protection systems, including those targeted at access to childcare, minimum wage increases, and employment and apprenticeship programs. Therefore, the United States receives a compliance score of +1.

Analyst: Katerina Stamadianos

European Union: –1

The European Union has failed to comply with its commitment to remain focused on addressing long-term unemployment by having appropriate social protection systems.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the European Union released an Individual Employment Plan stating its commitment to help member states in their recovery through social protections to address poverty and long-term unemployment. The 2014 European Semester package of Country Specific Recommendations: Building Growth, published on 2 June 2014 outlined the need to address inequalities and improve the performance of social protection systems. The EU is committed to helping its member states achieve the Europe 2020 strategy to bring 20 million people out of poverty by the end of the decade. In February 2013, the European Commission produced the Social Investment Package to provide guidance to member states. The 2014 priorities are the adequacy and design of employment benefits and social assistance in several member states.⁷⁵⁷

On November 28 2014, the European Commission published the 2015 Annual Growth Survey on the Union's path to sustainable job creation and Economic growth. As part of the European Commission's approach to support job creation, the survey proposes an investment plan to mobilise EUR315 billion of public and private investment over the next three years. The commission recommends member state level reforms to make labour markets more dynamic and tackle unemployment, and ensure the efficiency and adequacy of social protection systems.⁷⁵⁸

On 13 January 2015, the European Commission provided guidance to member states as to the application of the stability and growth pact to strengthen links between structural reforms, investment and fiscal responsibility. The guidance has three aims 1) to encourage effective implementation of structural reforms; 2) to promote investment in the context of the new European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI); and 3) the fiscal responsibility of member states as a necessary condition of jobs and growth. The commission remains committed to steps towards pooled sovereignty in economic governance as outlined under the Work Programme for 2015.⁷⁵⁹

On 19 January 2015, the European Commission report on Employment and Social Developments in Europe 2014 emphasized the need for new jobs, skills, and social protections for the restoration of economic outcomes and employment creation following the recession. The report notes the need for investment and reforms in social protection systems to create human capital and labour market

⁷⁵⁷ Employment Plan 2014: European Union, G20 (Brisbane) November 2014.. Access Date: 1 March 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_european_union.pdf

⁷⁵⁸ EU Annual Growth Survey 2015: A new Momentum for Jobs, Growth and Investment, European Commission (Brussels) 28 November 2014. Access Date: 2 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2235_en.htm

⁷⁵⁹ Stability and Growth Pact: Commission issues guidance to encourage structural reforms and investment, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015 http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3220_en.htm

inclusion. The European Social Fund can provide support for member state reforms to stabilize social protection systems.⁷⁶⁰

On 30 January 2015, The European Commission delivered a legislative proposal for the European Fund for Strategic Investments in partnership with the European Investment Bank. The fund will mobilize EUR315 billion in public and private investment to serve member states and industry sectors in most need of job creation and growth.⁷⁶¹

On 13 February 2015, The European Commission committed EUR66 billion to the Cohesion Policy to support 40 new programmes to boost economic competitiveness, enhance research and innovation, promote entrepreneurship, tackle unemployment, fight social exclusion and support the shift towards a low-carbon economy in Europe. Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, Marianne Thyssen announced that these investments would contribute to job creation, skills and education, and improving public administration.⁷⁶²

On 19 February 2015, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker pledged support for the EU Investment Plan to boost job creation and growth, and commitment to cooperation with the European Economic and Social Committee in the context of the 2015 Work Programme. Published on 6 November 2014, the report found the need for greater convergence of social policies to implement Article 3 of the Treaty to avoid social and regional imbalances. The investment plan prioritizes education and skills acquisition, innovation, entrepreneurship, energy transition and the green economy, and includes the involvement of social partners and civil society in employment reforms.⁷⁶³

Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Alison Blagden

⁷⁶⁰ Commission report highlights new jobs, new skills and social protection as drivers for restoring employment and incomes, European Social Fund (Brussels) 19 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015.

<http://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=67&langId=en&newsId=8539>

⁷⁶¹ Delivery of €315 billion Investment Plan on track: Commission presents law for the European Fund for Strategic Investments, European Commission (Strasbourg) 13 January 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3222_en.htm

⁷⁶² Cohesion Policy: Commission commits more than 66 billion euro to promote economic development across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 13 February 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4425_en.htm?locale=en

⁷⁶³ European Commission and EESC – Working hand in hand to deliver solutions for Europe, European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels) 19 February 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. <http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.press-releases.34839>

7. Climate Change

“We reaffirm our support for mobilising finance for adaptation ... such as the Green Climate Fund.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China	-1		
France			+1
Germany		0	
India	-1		
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		0	

Background

The G20 first addressed the issue of climate change at its inaugural summit in Washington DC in 2008.⁷⁶⁴ The topic remains of enormous importance for all members moving forward. It is recognized that, “climate change represents an urgent and potentially irreversible threat to human societies and the planet, and thus requires to be urgently addressed by all [countries].”⁷⁶⁵ Many commitments made at past G20 summits have either dealt directly with climate change, or have had climate change as an underlying theme. These include commitments relating to clean energy, food and agriculture, among others. At the London Summit in 2009, G20 members expressed their support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).⁷⁶⁶

⁷⁶⁴ Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, 2008 Washington Summit, 15 November 2008. Access Date: 7 December 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>.

⁷⁶⁵ Report of the Conference of the Parties on its Seventeenth Session, Held in Durban from 28 November to 11 December 2011, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 15 March 2012. Access Date: 7 December 2012. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2011/cop17/eng/09a01.pdf#page=2>.

⁷⁶⁶ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2009 London Summit, 2 April 2009. Access Date: 7 December 2012. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0402.html>.

The UNFCCC is an international treaty joined by countries in 1992 in their effort to “cooperatively consider what they could do to limit average global temperature increases and the resulting climate change, and to cope with whatever impacts were, by then, inevitable.”⁷⁶⁷ The Conference of the Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the convention. All countries that are parties to the Convention are represented at the COP. The COP is tasked with reviewing the national communications and emission inventories submitted by parties to the Convention. Based on the information gathered, the COP evaluates the effects of measures taken by parties as well as the progress made on the road to the ultimate goal of the convention. The COP meets annually and is set to reconvene under COP21 in Paris during September 2015.⁷⁶⁸

During the 16th session of the COP to the UNFCCC, from 20 November to 10 December 2010, in Cancun, Mexico, the parties decided to establish the Green Climate Fund (GCF) — decision 1/CP.16.⁷⁶⁹ The GCF was established as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the convention under Article 11. The objective of the GCF is to “support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties.” The GCF Board governs the GCF, however a trustee will administer its assets only for the purposes of, and in accordance with, the relevant decisions of the GCF Board. The COP invited the World Bank to serve as the interim trustee of the GCF, but is subject to review after three years of the GCF’s operationalization. Further, the COP decided that an independent secretariat will support the operations of the GCF and that it was to be designed by the Transitional Committee.⁷⁷⁰

During the 17th session of the COP to the UNFCCC from 20 November to 11 December 2011, in Durban South Africa, the parties adopted decision 3/CP.17, which approved the governing instrument for the GCF proposed by the Transitional Committee.⁷⁷¹ Upon adopting the governing instrument of the GCF under decision 3/CP.17, the GCF was launched.⁷⁷²

At the 20th session of the COP to the UNFCCC on the 9th of December 2014, in Lima, Peru,⁷⁷³ participating parties highlighted the beginning of the successful resource mobilization phase of the GCF which at that point had raised over USD10.2 billion.⁷⁷⁴ As a result, the GCF is the largest fund of its kind in the world.⁷⁷⁵ In addition, parties to COP20 requested that the GCF ensure that the

⁷⁶⁷ Background on the UNFCCC: The international response to climate change, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) 2012. Access Date: 8 December 2012. http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/6031.php.

⁷⁶⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communiqué, 2014 Brisbane Summit, 16th November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>.

⁷⁶⁹ Background, Green Climate Fund (Incheon City) 2014 Date of Access: 18 February 2014. <http://gcfund.net/about-the-fund/background.html>.

⁷⁷⁰ Background: Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Access Date: 18 February 2014.

http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php.

⁷⁷¹ Background: Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Access Date: 18 February 2014.

http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php.

⁷⁷² Background, Green Climate Fund (Incheon City) 2014. Access Date: 18 February 2014. <http://gcfund.net/about-the-fund/background.html>.

⁷⁷³ About COP20, Sustainable Innovation Forum 2014, Climate Action 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <http://www.cop20lima.org/about/cop20/>.

⁷⁷⁴ Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php.

⁷⁷⁵ Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php.

ongoing resource mobilization phase was commensurate with the ambitions of the fund, with specific mention of the desire for financial support from other developed country parties.⁷⁷⁶

At the most recent G20 2014 summit in Brisbane, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the UNFCCC and its agreed outcomes, including support for sustainable development, economic growth, and certainty for business and investment.⁷⁷⁷ The commitment also included support for mobilizing finance for adaptation and mitigation, such as the GCF.⁷⁷⁸

The G20 Climate Finance Study Group (CFSG) was created in 2012 by a group of foreign ministers from G20 members to “to consider ways to effectively mobilize resources taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of the UNFCCC.”⁷⁷⁹ In the 2013 CFSG Report to the Finance Ministers, four broad areas were highlighted for focus:⁷⁸⁰

- Financing for adaptation, with a focus on the barriers in scaling up private sector involvement and investment and the possible ways to overcome them, notwithstanding the fact that public finance will continue to be a key financing source for adaptation;
- Alternative sources and approaches to enhance climate finance and its effectiveness, with a focus on best practices in risk allocation between the public and private sector, taking into account the objectives, provisions and principles of UNFCCC;
- Enabling environments, in developing and developed countries, to facilitate the mobilization and effective deployment of climate finance, including from developed to developing countries and also domestic activities;
- Examining the role of relevant financial institutions and multilateral development banks (MDBs) in mobilizing climate finance, with the understanding that the priority of MDBs is development.

The 2014 CFSG study made policy recommendations that placed financing for adaptation as the first priority for Finance Leaders.⁷⁸¹ This includes public sector actions along with incentivizing the private sector to incorporate climate risks and adaptation costs in planning, financing and investment decisions.⁷⁸² The CFSG clarified the role that public finance is expected to play in adaptation

⁷⁷⁶ Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php.

⁷⁷⁷ G20 Leaders’ Communique, 2014 Brisbane Summit, 16th November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>.

⁷⁷⁸ G20 Leaders’ Communique, 2014 Brisbane Summit, 16th November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>.

⁷⁷⁹ Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

⁷⁸⁰ Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

⁷⁸¹ Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

⁷⁸² Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

financing, suggesting as an example the activities that support those most vulnerable to climate change.⁷⁸³

Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 member states to support financial mobilization for adaptation.

In 2014, the GCF became operational and launched the Initial Resource Mobilization phase. In 2014, the GCF conducted its first Initial Resource Mobilization pledging conferences on 20 November 2014 in Berlin.⁷⁸⁴ The purpose of the conferences was to encourage participating contributors to provide a pledge of financial support.⁷⁸⁵ Within the current compliance cycle, G20 members will be deemed in full compliance of the climate change commitment if they pledge contributions towards the GCF.

A GCF report on 28 November 2014 highlighted the objective of the fund to mobilize resources specifically to assist vulnerable developing countries to adapt to the effects of climate change.⁷⁸⁶ Outside of the GCF, there are external sources of financing for adaptation. Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) for example, are disbursed through multilateral development banks (MDBs) and aim to financially support developing countries in their capacity to address issues involving adaptation to climate change.⁷⁸⁷ Programs such as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience assist developing countries in including climate-related risk in development planning and provide financial support to the implementation of these programs.⁷⁸⁸ G20 members that pledge support to CIFs or similar organizations will also be considered to be in compliance with this climate change commitment.

In addition, the most recent CFSG study (2014) indicated the role that the public sector can play in assisting the private sector in both reducing barriers to and incentivizing sufficient investment in adaptation.⁷⁸⁹ Significant contributions from G20 members to encourage private sector investment will indicate compliance with the climate change commitment.

⁷⁸³ Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

⁷⁸⁴ Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, Green Climate Fund, 28 November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/MOB201410-8th/GCF_Report_to_COP_20_-_28NOV2014_final.pdf.

⁷⁸⁵ Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, Green Climate Fund, 28 November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/MOB201410-8th/GCF_Report_to_COP_20_-_28NOV2014_final.pdf.

⁷⁸⁶ Report of the Green Climate Fund to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, Green Climate Fund, 28 November 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/MOB201410-8th/GCF_Report_to_COP_20_-_28NOV2014_final.pdf.

⁷⁸⁷ About the Climate Investment Funds, Climate Investment Funds, World Bank Group, 2015. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/aboutus>.

⁷⁸⁸ About the Climate Investment Funds, Climate Investment Funds, World Bank Group, 2015. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/aboutus>.

⁷⁸⁹ Report to the Finance Ministers, G20 Climate Finance Study Group, September 2014. Date of access: 4 February 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/18%20Climate%20Finance%20Study%20Group%20-%20Report%20to%20Ministers.pdf>.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not pledge any financial commitment to the Green Climate Fund for adaptation AND does not contribute to external adaptation financing mechanisms.
0	Member country pledges to support the Green Climate Fund OR an external funding mechanism BUT does not specifically support adaptation. Member country pledges to support the Green Climate Fund OR an external funding mechanism BUT does not provide a timeline on the disbursement of funds.
+1	Member pledges a contribution to the Green Climate Fund OR an external financing mechanism specifically for adaptation with a clear timeline for disbursement of funds.

Lead Analyst: Matthew Gumley

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to support mobilizing funds for adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund.

As of February 2015, Argentina had not pledged to invest in the Green Climate Fund (GCF).⁷⁹⁰ After attending the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Warsaw in 2013, the Argentinian government stated that many developing countries had to cut their budgets for climate change, and that they would like to see the structure, principles and regulations of the 2020 plan to be funded by the GCF prior to investing in it.⁷⁹¹

Prior to this cycle, the Argentinian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development created the Government Committee on Climate Change to integrate the resources of each ministry in order to build their collective capacity.⁷⁹² Their strategy included five main activities to achieve this, including capacity building, generation of financial tools to fund activities, building public awareness and developing a regulatory framework, however no update on its progress is available online.⁷⁹³

France and Argentina have formed a partnership, Programa Argentina-Francia Agricultura (ARFAGRI), which will build partnerships between their institutions associated with agricultural, food production, and forests, which aim to build and empower educational institutions and technological capacity.⁷⁹⁴

⁷⁹⁰ Green Climate Fund, Pledges made towards GCF at the United Nations Climate Summit 2014. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://news.gcfund.org/pledges/>.

⁷⁹¹ Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros, Presidencia de la Nacion. Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nacion. Informe final del Decimonoveno Período de Sesiones de la Conferencia de las Partes de la Convención Marco de las Naciones Unidas sobre Cambio Climático (COP 19). Access date: 28 February 2015. http://www.ambiente.gov.ar/archivos/web/UCC/file/19_12_2013_COP%20XIX_VARSOVIA.doc.

⁷⁹² Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros, Presidencia de la Nacion. Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nacion. Comité Gubernamental de Cambio Climático. Access date: 2 February 2015. <http://www.ambiente.gov.ar/default.asp?IdArticulo=8661>.

⁷⁹³ Jefatura de Gabinete de Ministros, Presidencia de la Nacion. Secretaria de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de la Nacion. Comité Gubernamental de Cambio Climático. ESTRATEGIA NACIONAL EN CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO: ESTRUCTURA. INTRODUCCIÓN. OBJETIVOS GENERALES Y MEDIOS. Access date: 2 February 2015.

⁷⁹⁴ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Argentina y Francia avanzan en la cooperación educativa en el sector agropecuario. 2 February 2015. Access date: 20 February 2015. http://www.minagri.gob.ar/site/institucional/prensa/index.php?edit_accion=noticia&id_info=150227142125.

In its February 2015 meeting, the National Commission for Agricultural Disaster continued to address the provision of funding for farmers, with particular attention to those most vulnerable. The commission also seeks to address issues related to water and road infrastructure.⁷⁹⁵

The government officials who are addressing agriculture, disaster preparedness and other climate-related areas are also continuing their work with the private sector to help encourage the viability of businesses, such as beef export, and international partnerships, with countries such as with Russia.⁷⁹⁶

Argentina has a limited amount of easily accessible information online which provides a summary of its great strides forward to address climate change, though it does provide evidence of ongoing collaboration between public and private agencies, both nationally and internationally. However, there is a lack of commitment to funding to the GCF. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Carol Ramchuram

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to support mobilizing funds for adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund.

In November 2014, at the pledging conference held in Berlin, Australia pledged AUD 200 million (USD 186.94 million) to the Green Climate Fund to help address climate change.⁷⁹⁷ This came as a surprise after Australia's initial refusal to contribute to the fund at the 2014 Brisbane Summit.⁷⁹⁸ Australia has committed to disbursing the AUD 200 million over four years, and has transferred the first installment in December 2014.⁷⁹⁹

As of December, 31 2014, the Green Climate Fund reported receiving AUD 0.5 million (USD 0.51 million) from Australia, and is awaiting further funds.⁸⁰⁰

Australia has fully complied with the commitment made at the Brisbane Summit to mobilize finances for climate adaptation and mitigation. Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Aylin Manduric

⁷⁹⁵ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Argentina y Francia avanzan en la cooperación educativa en el sector agropecuario. La Comisión Nacional de Emergencias y Desastres Agropecuarios analizó la situación de las producciones afectadas en Corrientes. 24 February 2015. Access date: 19 February 2015.
http://www.minagri.gob.ar/site/institucional/prensa/index.php?edit_accion=noticia&id_info=150224175250.

⁷⁹⁶ Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca - Argentina y Francia avanzan en la cooperación educativa en el sector agropecuario. El MAGyP y el sector privado repasaron los logros 2014 y trazaron las líneas de trabajo para el año 2015. 11 February 2015. Access date: 28 February 2015.

http://www.minagri.gob.ar/site/areas/DNRAI/index.php?edit_accion=noticia&id_info=150212123635.

⁷⁹⁷ Outcome of the First GCF Pledging Conference and Pledges as of 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund (Berlin), 18 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/In_between/Inf.01_Rev.01_-_Outcome_of_the_First_GCF_Pledging_Conference_20150218_fin.pdf.

⁷⁹⁸ Climate Change: Europe and US press G20 leaders for strong action, the Guardian Australia (London) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/15/climate-change-europe-and-us-press-g20-leaders-for-strong-action>.

⁷⁹⁹ Media Release: Assisting the global response to climate change, Office of the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Barton ACT) 10 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2015.

http://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2014/jb_mr_141210.aspx.

⁸⁰⁰ Green Climate Fund Trust Fund Financial Report as of 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund (Incheon), 19 February 2015. Access Date 26 February 2015. <http://www.gcfund.org/documents/between-session-documents.html>.

Brazil: -1

Brazil has failed to comply with its commitment to support mobilizing funds for adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund.

Brazil has not pledged any financial contribution to the Green Climate Fund nor any other external fund to combat climate change. Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Daniel Hart

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize finance for climate change adaptation.

On 20 November 2014, Minister of the Environment Leona Aglukkaq announced that the government of Canada was pledging a contribution of CAN300 million to the Green Climate Fund.⁸⁰¹ Aglukkaq acknowledged the importance of helping developing countries with climate change adaptation and stated that Canada “will continue to protect our environment and support our economy as we move towards a new climate agreement in 2015 that must include all major economies and major emitters.”⁸⁰²

Canada has also taken climate change action outside of the Green Climate Fund. From 2010 to 2013, Canada made a contribution of CAD1.2 billion to different initiatives and programs that addressed climate change.⁸⁰³ Canada also supported key international partnerships such as the Climate and Clean Air Coalition and the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate.⁸⁰⁴

Canada has pledged a contribution to support the Green Climate Fund. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elisabeth Asselin

China: -1

China has failed to comply with its commitment to mobilize finance for climate change adaptation.

China has achieved significant milestones in domestic environmental protection measures. On 6 February 2015, data from China’s National Bureau of Statistics showed a 2.5% decline in coal output and, a 2.9% decline in coal consumption in 2014.⁸⁰⁵ In addition, China has invested USD90 billion in solar energy in the same year.⁸⁰⁶

⁸⁰¹ Harper Government Commits Significant Funding to International Green Climate Fund, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=906609>.

⁸⁰² Harper Government Commits Significant Funding to International Green Climate Fund, Environment Canada (Ottawa) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=906609>.

⁸⁰³ Canada’s Action on Climate Change, Government of Canada (Canada) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: February 28 2015. <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=72F16A84-1>.

⁸⁰⁴ Canada’s International Action, Government of Canada (Canada) 7 November 2013. Date of Access: February 28 2015. <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=5497F282-0>.

⁸⁰⁵ China’s Coal Consumption Falls 2.9%, NASDAQ (New York City) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.nasdaq.com/article/chinas-coal-consumption-falls-29-20150226-00422>

⁸⁰⁶ Solar power drives renewable energy investment boom in 2014, The Guardian (London) 9 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jan/09/solar-power-drives-renewable-energy-investment-boom-2014>

On December 9, 2014, Xie Zhenhua, China's chief negotiator at the 2014 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima stated that developed countries were doing too little to raise climate finance towards the USD100 billion goal by 2020. "The Lima Conference should adopt a clear roadmap on finance by 2020 by specifying the annual amount of public finance by every developed nation, every year."⁸⁰⁷

However, despite increased investment in solar energy and a reduction in coal consumption and output, China has not announced pledges to Green Climate Fund or other external climate organizations. Thus, China is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Cindy Ou

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize finance for climate change adaptation.

France took action very early on to support the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and was one of the eight countries that contributed to the Fund's initial capitalization. At the United Nations climate summit in September 2014, French President François Hollande stated that his country would provide USD1 billion to the GCF over the next few years.⁸⁰⁸

On 20 November 2014, at the official capitalization meeting, France went through with President Hollande's commitment and announced that it would make a contribution to the GCF consisting of a EUR489 million grant and a EUR285 million zero-interest loan.⁸⁰⁹ It was specified that the loan would be disbursed in early 2015, and the grant over four years from 2015.⁸¹⁰

On 26 February 2015, President Hollande made a conjoint statement with Philippine President Benigno Aquino in which they called for the international community "to provide the poorest and most vulnerable countries with adequate means of implementation, to help them achieve their transition to resilient territories and low-carbon economies."⁸¹¹

France has pledged a detailed contribution to support the GCF and has specifically shown its support for adaptation. Thus, France is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elisabeth Asselin

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitments to mobilize finance for climate change adaptation.

⁸⁰⁷ Green Climate Fund hits \$10 billion goal, after Australia surprise, Reuters (Lima) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/10/us-climatechange-lima-fund-idUSKBN0JN2D220141210>

⁸⁰⁸ Pledges Made Towards GCF at the United Nations Climate Summit 2014, Green Climate Fund September 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://news.gcfund.org/pledges/>.

⁸⁰⁹ Joint communiqué issued by Laurent Fabius, Ségolène Royal, Michel Sapin and Annick Girardin on Climate Disruption Financing, Government of France (France) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.fr/sections/aide-au-developpement/le-financement-du-fonds-vert-decolle-avec-lannonce-des-etats-unis> <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/climate-disruption-financing>.

⁸¹⁰ Le financement du Fonds vert décolle avec l'annonce des États-Unis, EurActiv News French Edition 14 November 2014. Date of Access : 28 February 2015.

⁸¹¹ Manila Call to Action on Climate Change, Présidence de la république française (France) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.elysee.fr/declarations/article/manila-call-to-action-on-climate-change/>.

In December 2014, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Federal Environment Minister Barbara Hendrick accepted Germany's responsibility to support developing countries in the context of climate action.⁸¹²

On 10 December 2014, the German Environmental Ministry announced it would jointly launch the NAMA Facility with the British Department of Energy and Climate.⁸¹³ Combined funds equal EUR70 million.⁸¹⁴

While Germany has actively pledged support for the mission of the Green Climate Fund, as well as participated in its line of work through alternative institutions, no financial contributions have been made thus far. Thus, Germany is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Francesca Morfini

India: -1

India has failed to comply with its commitment to support financial mobilization for climate adaptation by failing to pledge financial support to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) or other external climate organizations.

On December 8, 2015, India insisted on early financing for the GCF. Environment Minister Prakesh Javadekar said, "India and other developing countries were hoping the GCF would be funded at a rate of USD10 billion every year until 2020 to reach the USD100 billion target."⁸¹⁵

Furthermore, Javadekar stated: "India will make comprehensive climate legislation (that) will ensure a better environment."⁸¹⁶ On February 3, 2015, he stated that India has begun to turn towards alternative energy, including efforts to increase solar power across the country.⁸¹⁷ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has set a target for India to have "100 gigawatts of solar capacity by 2022."⁸¹⁸

⁸¹² Clear rules for climate action, The Federal Government (Berlin) 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/12_en/2014-12-09-lima-minister_en.html?nn=709674

⁸¹³ Sound foundations laid down for global climate agreement, The Federal Government (Berlin) 14 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/12_en/2014-12-12-lima-klimakonferenz_en.html?nn=709674

⁸¹⁴ Sound foundations laid down for global climate agreement, The Federal Government (Berlin) 14 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/Artikel/2014/12_en/2014-12-12-lima-klimakonferenz_en.html?nn=709674

⁸¹⁵ India for early financing of Green Climate Fund, The Economic Times (Lima) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-08/news/56839464_1_green-climate-fund-climate-finance-indcs

⁸¹⁶ India for early financing of Green Climate Fund, The Economic Times (Lima) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://articles.economicstimes.indiatimes.com/2014-12-08/news/56839464_1_green-climate-fund-climate-finance-indcs

⁸¹⁷ India 'Walking the talk' on climate change, says environment minister, The Guardian (London) 3 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/feb/03/india-walking-the-talk-on-climate-change-says-environment-minister>

⁸¹⁸ India 'Walking the talk' on climate change, says environment minister, The Guardian (London) 3 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/feb/03/india-walking-the-talk-on-climate-change-says-environment-minister>

However, despite setting significant alternative energy goals, India has not pledged financial contributions to GCF or other external climate organizations. Thus, India is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Cindy Ou

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund.

As of December, 31, 2014, Indonesia signed off on its USD 0.25 million contribution, but the Green Climate Fund has yet to report its receipt of the country's contribution.⁸¹⁹ Indonesia pledged USD 0.25 million at the 2014 Green Climate Fund pledging conference in Berlin, but has not released a timeline for disbursement of the funds.⁸²⁰

Thus, Indonesia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Aylin Manduric

Italy: –1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

On 20 November 2014, Italy pledged USD310 million at the GCF conference in Berlin. However, no contributions had been made between 27 November 2014 and 28 February 2015.⁸²¹

On 8 December 2014, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Lima, Director General for Sustainable Development, Energy and Climate at the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land & Sea Francesco La Camera announced that the GCF “funds are hugely important as indicators of delivery.”⁸²² Despite this announcement, no contributions have been to the GCF or other external financial mechanisms.

Further, no action has been made to contribute to the GCF's goal to “support projects, programs, policies and other activities in developing country Parties” through external financial mechanisms.⁸²³

Italy has failed to make a concrete financial pledge to the GCF. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Francesca Morfini

⁸¹⁹ Green Climate Fund Trust Fund Financial Report as of 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund, 19 February 2015. Access Date 26 February 2015. <http://www.gcfund.org/documents/between-session-documents.html>.

⁸²⁰ Outcome of the First GCF Pledging Conference and Pledges as of 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund (Berlin), 18 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/In_between/Inf.01_Rev.01_-_Outcome_of_the_First_GCF_Pledging_Conference_20150218_fin.pdf.

⁸²¹ Countries pledge \$9.4bn for Green Climate Fund, The Guardian (London) 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 3 March 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/20/countries-pledge-93bn-for-green-climate-fund>.

⁸²² Speakings EU press briefing, Lima, Ministry of the Environment, Land and Sea (Rome) 5 December 2014. Date of Access: 3 March 2015.

<http://www.minambiente.it/sites/default/files/archivio/notizie/Intrevento%20La%20Camera%20eng.docx>.

⁸²³ Background: Green Climate Fund, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Access Date: 3 March 2015. http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/financial_mechanism/green_climate_fund/items/5869.php

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

On 20 November 2014, at the GCF Pledging Conference in Germany, the Japanese Minister Takayuki Miyashita pledged that Japan would contribute up to USD 1.5 billion (approximated JPY 154 billion) to the GCF. This represented 15% of the total contributions, thus far.

The intention behind Japan's significant investment is to provide momentum to climate change initiatives, in particular, curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, Japan is hoping that this climate finance can establish a post-2020 agreement where all countries, including developing countries, will make "ambitious" and "transparent" commitments to reduce their emissions.⁸²⁴

On March 18, 2014, according to "Japan's Climate Change Policies" released by the Ministry of the Environment, Japan has committed to undertake a number of short-, medium- and long-term initiatives that extend as far as 2050.⁸²⁵

Japan's Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), a body to support the UNFCCC objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, continues to take action to disseminate Japanese low-carbon technologies to developing countries with three-year projects, to build their technological capacity and also to accurately evaluate Japan's emission reductions. The 2015 JCM budget is approximately USD30 million. Recent updates to JCM projects in 2015 include:

- Japan and Cambodia held their first JCM committee meeting;
- Japan and Palau solicited public input on their project "Displacement of Grid and Captive Genset Electricity by a Small-scale Solar PV System"; and
- Japan and Mongolia approved a methodology for their project "Replacement and Installation of High Efficiency Heat Only Boiler (HOB) for Hot Water Supply Systems."⁸²⁶

Japan has made a substantial pledge to the GCF and has undertaken extensive work to build capacities of developing countries. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Carol Ramchuram

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Korea pledged to invest up to USD100 million towards the GCF, which includes the USD50 million contribution currently being invested. Korean President Park Geun-hye, expressed his desire to share Korea's experiences with other nations, and stressed the fund's importance to the republic's 2015

⁸²⁴ Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan, United States and Japan announce \$4.5 billion in pledges to GCF. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000059837.pdf>.

⁸²⁵ Japan's Ministry of the Environment, Japan's Climate Change Policies. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://www.env.go.jp/en/focus/docs/files/20140318-83.pdf>.

⁸²⁶ Government of Japan, Joint Crediting Mechanism, New mechanisms information platform. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://www.mmechanisms.org/e/initiatives/jcm.html>.

plans. The President also expressed interest in investing in the Global Green Growth Institute and other similar organizations working to combat climate change.⁸²⁷

In December 2014 at the United Nations climate conference in Lima, Peru, Korea's Environment Minister Yoon Seong-kyu released the 2020 greenhouse gas reduction target of 30%, and the launch of its Emission Trading Scheme. Korea will be the first Asian country to adopt this type of scheme. The minister also announced that Korea would submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution extending past 2020.⁸²⁸

In February 2015, the Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute continued its initiative to raise awareness about carbon dioxide emissions. It will assess 30 small or medium-sized companies and create "carbon labels" for their products, which reflect these emissions.⁸²⁹

In December 2014, the Ministry of Environment (MOE) and Korea Environment Corporation, in support of its nation's expertise and research in climate change mitigation, designated five universities as graduate schools climate change specialists. The MOE will provide consultation and support to these schools' curriculums, as well as provide them with funding up to the approximate amount of USD136,000 per year for up to five years.⁸³⁰

Korea, China and Japan continue to collaborate through the Joint Action Plan between 2015 and 2019 created through Tripartite Environment Ministers Meetings. Through this plan, three countries will cooperate on various environmental policies, measurements and best practices, such as:

- Response to climate change and emergencies
- Air quality
- Biodiversity, the marine environment and water conservation
- Collaborative management of circulating chemicals and waste
- Environmental education, public awareness and corporate social responsibility
- Rural environmental management and
- Corporate social responsibility and building green economies.⁸³¹

⁸²⁷ Green Climate Fund, Pledges made towards GCF at the United Nations Climate Summit 2014. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://news.gcfund.org/pledges/>.

⁸²⁸ Republic of Korea, Ministry of Environment, Minister Yoon Seong-kyu delivered a keynote speech at UNFCCC COP 20/CMP 10. Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=467250&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=climate>.

⁸²⁹ Republic of Korea, Ministry of Environment, Respond to climate change by calculating emissions, Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=482230&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=climate>.

⁸³⁰ Republic of Korea, Ministry of the Environment, MOE to designate five graduate schools specialized in climate change, Access date: 15 February 2015. <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=469450&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=climate>.

⁸³¹ Republic of Korea, Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Ministers of Korea, China and Japan agreed to combat DSS. Access date: on 15 February 2015 from <http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=347526&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=>

Korea has made a substantial contribution to the GCF and has undertaken extensive work to build its national awareness and expertise, and collaboration with neighboring countries.⁸³² Thus, Korea is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Carol Ramchuram

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Mexico contributed USD10 million to the GCF, ahead of the Conference of Parties (COP) 21, and thus complied with its G20 commitment to environmental sustainability.⁸³³

In August 2014, the Mexican legislature implemented a series of reforms opening the power sector under the *Ley de Industria Eléctrica*, the *Ley de Energía Geotérmica* and through the *Ley Federal de Presupuesto y Responsabilidad Hacendaria*.⁸³⁴ These reforms, however, are part of a larger “green package,” which had a firm approval deadline set for 20 December 2014. These reforms have been delayed, leading to uncertainty around Mexican policy on green certifications, and transmission interconnection.⁸³⁵ The deadline for the Senate to approve the “green package,” or the *Ley de Trasción Energética*, had been postponed to 15 February 2015.

Mariana Castillo, a public policy analyst at the Mexican Centre for Environmental Law, asserted that Senate should not further postpone “the adoption a law that will help [Mexico] generate a long-term vision on energy, reduce its dependence on oil, encourage energy transition and renewable energy,” in compliance with international commitments by Mexico to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.⁸³⁶

Mexico contributed USD10 million to the GCF, and thus complied with its G20 commitment to environmental sustainability. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Harrison Perry-Daiter

Russia: –1

Russia has failed to comply with its commitment on climate change.

⁸³² Republic of Korea, Ministry of the Environment, Environmental Ministers of Korea, China and Japan agreed to combat DSS, Access date: 15 February 2015.
<http://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?menuId=21&boardMasterId=522&boardId=347526&searchKey=titleOrContent&searchValue=>

⁸³³ International Institute for Environment and Development November 18 2014. Date Accessed: 28 February 2015
<http://www.iied.org/qa-why-green-climate-funds-pledging-meeting-important>.

⁸³⁴ Institute of The Americas November 2014. Date Accessed: 1 March 2015
https://www.iamericas.org/documents/energy/reports/Redefining_Renewable_Energy_in_Mexico.pdf.

⁸³⁵ Piden Organizaciones al Senado Aprobar Ley de Trasción Energética, Sistema Informativo (Mexico City) January 28 2015. Date Accessed: 1 March 2015
<http://www.lineadirectaportal.com/movil/publicacion.php?id=229360&origen=s&seccionID=&back=seccion.php?seccionID=8&seccion=>

⁸³⁶ Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, 28 January 2015. Date Accessed: March 1 2015
<http://www.cemda.org.mx/01/urgen-organizaciones-al-senado-a-aprobar-la-ley-de-transicion-energetica/>.

Russia has not made financial contributions to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) during the compliance period.⁸³⁷

No facts of Russia's intent to provide financial contribution to GCF have been registered. Thus Russia is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In August 2014, the King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (K-A.CARE), a Saudi royal agency that oversees renewable energy development, implemented an agreement with the Chinese National Nuclear Corporation to develop renewable and nuclear energy.⁸³⁸ This plan would result in 41 gigawatts of photovoltaic solar energy capacity by 2032, supplying 30% of its total power consumption. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest exporter of crude oil, relies on hydrocarbon fossil fuels for power. By 2032, however, power demands will exceed 120 gigawatts per year. The Saudi government projects approximately 41 gigawatts to be supplied by solar energy, 17 gigawatts by nuclear and 9 gigawatts by wind. However, within the current compliance cycle, Saudi Arabia delayed its renewable energy program by eight years.⁸³⁹ At a 2015 energy conference in Abu Dhabi, K-A.CARE President Hashim Yamani announced that he had "revised the outlook together with our stakeholders to focus on 2040 as the major milestone for long-term energy planning in Saudi Arabia."

While Saudi Arabia has maintained its long-term goal of divestment from hydrocarbons for domestic energy production, it has not pledged any financial contribution to the GCF, or to similar adaptation mechanisms. Thus, Saudi Arabia is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Harrison Perry-Daiter

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with its commitment to support climate change adaptation by pledging and delivering financial resources to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

As of 31 December 2014, South Africa had not made any financial contribution to the GCF nor has it contributed to external adaptation financing mechanisms, failing to comply with its commitment to mobilize funds for adaptation.⁸⁴⁰

⁸³⁷ Green Climate Fund (GCF): Contributions, World Bank. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

<http://fiftrustee.worldbank.org/index.php?type=contributionpage&ft=gcf>.

⁸³⁸ China, Saudi Arabia to Cooperate on Renewable Energy Development, PV Magazine 19 August 2014. Date Accessed: 27 February 2014

http://www.pv-magazine.com/news/details/beitrag/china--saudi-arabia-to-cooperate-on-renewable-energy-development_100016140/#axzz3TBLQoMI7.

⁸³⁹ Saudi Arabia Delays \$109 Billion Solar Plant by 8 Years, Bloomberg January 20, 2015. Date Accessed: 28 February 2015

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-01-20/saudi-arabia-delays-109-billion-solar-plant-by-8-years>.

⁸⁴⁰ Attachment III: Pledge Table – Green Climate Fund Initial Resource Mobilization Pledges as at 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund News 31 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://news.gcfund.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/pledges_GCF_dec14.pdf.

In 2014, South Africa had been working on a National Development Plan and a National Climate Change Response which committed to “an equitable transition to a lower carbon and climate resilient economy and society.”⁸⁴¹

South Africa has not made a financial contribution to the GCF or to other external mechanisms to support adaptation. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Elisabeth Asselin

Turkey: –1

Turkey has failed to comply with its commitment to support raising finances for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Turkey does not have a representative on the board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and did not attend the pledging conference in November 2014 in Berlin.⁸⁴² After the G20 Brisbane Summit, Turkey put climate change finance on the list of priority areas it planned to focus on during its G20 presidency.⁸⁴³ Although the Turkish government has not started any new initiatives to further climate change finance, it is continuing its previous projects and commitments. In partnership with the United Kingdom Prosperity Fund, Turkey is working on funding programs that promote sustainable development. The Prosperity Fund, based in Ankara, aims to fund projects in Turkey that take action against climate change through “low-carbon economic development.”⁸⁴⁴

Turkey has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Aylin Manduric

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to support the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

In November 2014, the UK pledged GBP720 million in support of the GCF. As of yet, the UK government has not followed through on this pledge and has not made a clear outline of when it will make a contribution.

However, the UK has allocated GBP40 million to the bio-carbon fund, which is overseen by the World Bank.⁸⁴⁵ This donation is intended to assist the BCF Initiative on Sustainable Forest Landscapes, a program to combat greenhouse gas emission resulting mainly from deforestation. In

⁸⁴¹ Climate Change: South Africa Talks Green, The Africa Report (South Africa) 14 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.theafricareport.com/Southern-Africa/climate-change-south-africa-talks-green.html>.

⁸⁴² Outcome of the First GCF Pledging Conference and Pledges as of 31 December 2014, Green Climate Fund (Incheon), 18 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/In_between/Inf.01_Rev.01_-_Outcome_of_the_First_GCF_Pledging_Conference_20150218_fin.pdf.

⁸⁴³ Turkish G20 Presidency Priorities for 2015, G20.org (Istanbul), 3 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March 2015. <https://g20.org/>.

⁸⁴⁴ UK Prosperity Fund: Turkey, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office (London), 15 December 2014. Access Date: 1 March, 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/uk-prosperity-fund-turkey>.

⁸⁴⁵ Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs, “Intervention Summary: Biocarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes”, December 2014. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/399714/intervention-summary-biocarbon-fund-intiative.pdf

addition, the UK's contribution is an investment into more environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture.

While the UK has contributed to various climate change initiatives, it has not provided financing for the Green Climate Fund or other adaptation mechanisms. Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Daniel Hart

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to support the operationalization of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

On 2 February 2015, President Barack Obama's budget included a contribution of USD500 million to the GCF and USD230 million to the Climate Investments Fund.⁸⁴⁶ The budget was introduced in early February 2015 and included this contribution that would be the country's first installment of the USD3 billion it has pledged to the GCF.⁸⁴⁷ The budget also voiced support for the continuation of the fund into the future by stating "the United States expects that the GCF will become a preeminent, effective, and efficient channel for climate finance."⁸⁴⁸

While Obama's budget still has to be approved by the US Congress, the pledge of a specific amount of money to the GCF outlines the administration's commitment to follow through on its promised contributions. Thus, the United States is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Daniel Hart

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to mobilize funds for adaptation.

The EU pledged to financial contributions to two climate-related financial instruments, the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency (PF4EE) under the LIFE program and the Natural Capital Financing Facility. In addition, EU member states have pledged funds to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

As of December 9, 2014, the European Commission had pledged EUR80 million to the PF4EE. This program aims to "increase private financing for investments in energy efficient projects."⁸⁴⁹ The recipients of the funding include "small and medium sized enterprises, private individuals, small municipalities and other public sectors."⁸⁵⁰ Also on 19 December 2014, the European Commission and the European Investment Bank launched a new financing instrument called the Natural Capital Financing Facility for "projects promoting the preservation of natural capital, including adaptation to

⁸⁴⁶ James West, "Obama's Budget Calls for Billions in Climate Funding", Mother Jones 2 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/02/obama-budget-billions-green-climate-fund>

⁸⁴⁷ James West, "Obama's Budget Calls for Billions in Climate Funding", Mother Jones 2 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/02/obama-budget-billions-green-climate-fund>

⁸⁴⁸ James West, "Obama's Budget Calls for Billions in Climate Funding", Mother Jones 2 February 2015. Access Date: 26 February 2015. <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2015/02/obama-budget-billions-green-climate-fund>

⁸⁴⁹ Range of LIFE funding has been expanded, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2014120901_en.htm

⁸⁵⁰ Range of LIFE funding has been expanded, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2014120901_en.htm

climate change.”⁸⁵¹ The commission pledged EUR50 million as guaranteed investment and EUR10 million for a support facility.

Furthermore, the EU Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete commented on the launch of the two organizations saying: “The new instruments will unlock significant public and private investments in key strategy areas like energy efficiency and climate protection.” The launches of both financial instruments place the EU on the path of achieving its 2020 goals in resource efficiency, biodiversity and climate action.

In addition, three EU member states have individually pledged contributions to the GCF. On 25 July 2014, Germany announced a pledge of EUR750 million to the GCF.⁸⁵² On 28 November 2014, Spain announced a pledge of EUR120 million⁸⁵³ and, on 11 December 2014, Austria announced a pledge of USD25 million⁸⁵⁴ with the possibility of an additional USD25 million in 2015.

The EU and its members demonstrated their commitment to improving energy efficiency and environmental protection. Financial investments have been made to encourage the public and private sector in energy-efficient projects and in developing measures to counteract climate-related risks through adaptation.

Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Cindy Ou

⁸⁵¹ New Funding under the Natural Capital Financing Facility, European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/articles/news_2014121902_en.htm

⁸⁵² Green Climate Fund Welcome German Pledge, Green Climate Fund (Incheon) 25 July 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Press/GCF_PR_07_25_July_2014_German_Pledge.pdf

⁸⁵³ Spain Announces Contribution to Green Climate Fund, Green Climate Fund (Incheon) 28 November 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Press/GCF_Press_Release_2014_11_28_Spain_pledge.pdf

⁸⁵⁴ Total Pledges nearing 10.2 billion. New Pledges from Peru, Colombia, Austria, Green Climate Fund (Incheon) 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

http://www.gcfund.org/fileadmin/00_customer/documents/Press/release_GCF_2014_12_10_austria_pledge.pdf

8. Energy: Fossil Fuels

“We reaffirm our commitment to rationalise and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, recognising the need to support the poor.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia	-1		
Brazil		0	
Canada	-1		
China	-1		
France		0	
Germany	-1		
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan	-1		
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score	-0.35		

Background

At Brisbane Summit G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to rationalize and phase out, over the medium term, inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.

At the Toronto Summit in 2010, Finance and Energy ministers completed a comprehensive review of fossil fuel subsidy programs for their respective countries in which they discussed the various ways to address social and economic impacts of possible reforms. Among the members invited to submit progress reports in 2011, eleven members failed to report any fossil fuel subsidies. Other members however, reported continued progress and notable progress is being made with regards to implementation of strategies that will phase out fossil fuel. Summary of Progress Reports to G-20 Leaders on the Commitment to Rationalize and Phase Out Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies. Because such statements are declarative and not supported by material evidence, this report will not consider them as credible sources. Thus, they will not be taken into account towards the setting of G20 members' scores.

G20 members continued their discussion of possible next steps in the second half of 2012 and beyond. The discussions included the possibility of a peer-review process whereby a member could invite another member to assess its fossil fuel subsidy reform progress. They would seek to improve the definition of fossil fuel subsidies while finding a way to standardize reporting from G20 countries.

The G20 finance ministers agreed at their 15-16 February 2013 meeting to undertake a voluntary peer-review process for fossil fuel subsidies and report outcomes to Leaders in St. Petersburg in 2013.

Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 members to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies over the medium term. Specific policies depend on the member state's national circumstances and require the concurrent provision of targeted support for the poor.

There is currently no common benchmark or definition of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that may encourage wasteful consumption.⁸⁵⁵

In 2011, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil Fuels identified types of government support for energy production.⁸⁵⁶ These are:

- Intervening in markets in a way that affects costs or prices;
- Transferring funds to recipients directly ;
- Assuming part of their risk;
- Selectively reducing the taxes governments would otherwise have to pay;
- Undercharging for the use of government-supplied goods or assets.

There is also no single approach to measure subsidy efforts. The two most common approaches are 1) price-gap measurements to “examine differences between the observed price for a good ... against what the price ‘should be’ without the government programs”; and 2) transfer measurements that “quantify the subsidy flows associated with particular government programs, regardless of whether they end up changing fuel prices.”⁸⁵⁷ These two methods can track the potential decline of a member's fossil fuel subsidy program.

In this commitment, the G20 also recognized the need to support the poor. The World Bank found that even though fossil fuel subsidies are economically inefficient, “price increases from the removal of fossil-fuel subsidies are likely to adversely affect lower-income households who are already struggling.”⁸⁵⁸ The report by the World Bank, submitted to the G20, identified two broad types of approaches available to countries seeking to reduce subsidies and support the poor: 1) improving the poverty targeting of existing subsidies, including limiting the number of subsidized goods to those

⁸⁵⁵ Joint Report by IEA, OPEC, OECD and World Bank on Fossil-Fuel and Other Energy Subsidies: An Update of the G20 Pittsburgh and Toronto Commitments, IEA, OECD, World Bank, OPEC, OECD (Paris) 14 October 2011. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. www.oecd.org/dataoecd/14/18/49006998.pdf.

⁸⁵⁶ Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil Fuels, OECD (Paris) 2011. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/site/tadffss/48805150.pdf>.

⁸⁵⁷ Measuring Energy Subsidies Using the Price-Gap Approach: What Does it leave out?, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Winnipeg) August 2009. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. http://www.iisd.org/gsi/sites/default/files/bali_2_copenhagen_ff_subsidies_pricegap.pdf.

⁸⁵⁸ Transitional Policies to Assist the Poor While Phasing Out Inefficient Fossil Fuels that Encourage Wasteful Consumption, World Bank (Washington D.C.) 18 September 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Climate/Transitional-Policies-Assist-Poor-Phasing-Out-Inefficient-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies.pdf>.

used by the poor or limiting the quantities subsidized; and 2) introducing or strengthening other forms of support for the livelihoods of the poor, in cash or in-kind.⁸⁵⁹

Given the absence of a common structure, the compliance of each G20 member will be assessed on its individual implementation strategy and recent progress. Members that have declared that they do not have inefficient fossil fuel subsidies will be subject to different criteria. These members will still be evaluated on their efforts to provide support for the poor. However, research will be conducted to ensure that members who have declared to not have inefficient fossil fuel subsidies have not introduced any since their declaration. Member countries that have declared they have efficient fossil fuel subsidies but are found to have inefficient fossil fuel subsidies will be awarded a score of 0, provided they have take measures to support the poor. If these members have also not taken action to support the poor they will be awarded a score of -1.

Table 6 describes the most recent member-specific implementation strategies from the 2012 Los Cabos Summit.⁸⁶⁰

⁸⁵⁹ Transitional Policies to Assist the Poor While Phasing Out Inefficient Fossil Fuels that Encourage Wasteful Consumption, World Bank (Washington D.C.) 18 September 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/Climate/Transitional-Policies-Assist-Poor-Phasing-Out-Inefficient-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies.pdf>.

⁸⁶⁰ G20 Initiative on Rationalizing and Phasing Out Inefficient Fossil Fuel Subsidies. G20 Research Group (Toronto) 4 September 2013. Date of Access: 2 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2012loscabos-final/11-2012-g20-compliance-final.pdf>.

Table 6: Member-Specific Implementation Strategies

G20 Member	Implementation Strategy
Argentina	Proposes to reduce household subsidy for propane gas consumption as natural gas access is expanded.
Canada	Proposes to implement recently released draft legislation to phase out the accelerated capital cost allowance for oil sands assets over the 2011-15 period. Previously phased out other tax preferences applying to fossil fuel producers.
China	Proposes to gradually reduce the urban land use tax relief for fossil fuel producers.
Germany	Proposes to discontinue subsidized coal mining in a socially acceptable manner by the end of 2018.
India	Proposes to work out implementation strategies and timetables for rationalizing and phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies based on the recommendation of the Empowered Group of Ministers that has been constituted.
Indonesia	Proposes to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies in a gradual manner in parallel through managing demand by adopting measures that will reduce fossil fuel energy consumption and by gradually narrowing the gap between domestic and international prices.
Italy	Proposes to continue with planned expiration of subsidy for certain cogeneration plants, and negotiate on a voluntary basis with private operators of these plants on the timing of their recess from the subsidy scheme.
Korea	Proposes to phase out subsidies to anthracite coal and briquette producers.
Mexico	By continuing current policies and based on current market conditions, subsidies to gasoline, diesel, and LP gas are expected to disappear in the medium term.
Russia	Proposes to implement the commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies through national economic and energy policy, within the framework of its Energy Strategy 2030 and the Concept of Long-Term Social and Economic Development, as well as in the context of its joining the World Trade Organization.
Turkey	Proposes to work on a restructuring plan to rationalize the inefficient producer subsidies transferred to a state-owned producing enterprise.
United States	Proposes to pass legislation to eliminate 12 preferential tax provisions related to the production of coal, oil, and natural gas.

In this report, Australia, Brazil, France, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom all claim to have efficient fossil fuel subsidies.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not provide any form of support that facilitates access of fossil fuels to vulnerable groups.
0	Member provides indiscriminate support to facilitate access to fossil fuels.
+1	Member provides target support to the vulnerable groups that do not have access on fossil fuels.

Scoring guidelines for members that have specified having inefficient fossil fuel subsidies

-1	Member takes no action to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies AND does not provide support to its vulnerable groups.
0	Member takes action to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies but does not provide support to its vulnerable groups OR member does not take action to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies but provides support to its vulnerable groups.
+1	Member takes action to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies <i>and</i> provides support to its vulnerable groups.

Lead Analyst: Anthony Marchese

Argentina: -1

Argentina has not taken measures to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.

On 4 February 2015 Argentina's government announced it would subsidize oil production and exports by as much as USD6 a barrel as part of a stimulus program to prevent a drop in output given the context of lower international crude prices. The program is retroactive to 1 January 2015 and is supposed to last until the end of this year, but may be extended for an additional 12 months.⁸⁶¹

Argentina has increased subsidies in the oil production and export sector during this compliance cycle and has not taken any action to support the poor. Thus it receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Nancy Xue

Australia: -1

Australia has not complied with its commitment to phase out inefficient fuel subsidies and to provide targeted support for energy access for the poorest.

In February 2015 the rates for the fuel tax credit have been increased for liquid fuels, mineral turpentine, white spirit, kerosene, heating oil, liquefied petroleum gas and liquefied natural gas.⁸⁶² The fuel tax credit was introduced in July 2006 and is currently used as a subsidy by the construction, mining, agriculture, fishing, forestry, marine transport, rail transport, nursing, and medical industries. The functionality of the credit is that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) can be reclaimed by businesses that qualify. As it currently stands only the GST from fuel used in machinery, plant, equipment and heavy vehicles can be reclaimed.⁸⁶³ For a vehicle to qualify it needs to exceed 4.5 tons and it cannot be driven on a public road. The Australian Conservation Foundation estimates that around AUS 2 billion are claimed annually by the mining sector through this credit.⁸⁶⁴

Accelerated depreciation is a tax break used by businesses to claim the difference between the buying price of an asset and the current depreciated value.

⁸⁶¹ Argentina boosts subsidies for oil output, exports. Argus Media. 4 Feb 2015. Date of Access: 11 May 2015.

⁸⁶² Fuel Schemes: From 1 July 2014, Australian Taxation Office, 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015
<https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Fuel-schemes/Fuel-tax-credits---business/Rates/From-1-July-2014/>

⁸⁶³ Fuel Schemes: About Fuel Tax Credits, Australian Taxation Office, 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 14 May 2015
<https://www.ato.gov.au/Business/Fuel-schemes/Fuel-tax-credits---business/About-fuel-tax-credits/>

⁸⁶⁴ Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Australian Conservation Foundation, Date of Access: 14 May 2015
<http://www.acfonline.org.au/be-informed/climate-change/fossil-fuel-subsidies>

No effort to phase out these tax credit schemes has been made during the compliance period. No evidence of support for energy access for the poor has been found for the duration of the compliance cycle. Thus, Australia has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Burloiu

Brazil: 0

Brazil has been awarded a score of 0 as a result of its compliance with phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and providing targeted support for the poorest affected population.

An inefficient fuel subsidy has been identified as being paid by the state-owned Petrobras. The company has failed to disclose a clear policy for phasing out the inefficient fuel subsidy.

On 2 December 2014, the losses caused by the payment of the subsidy resulted in a 20% fall in profits from the previous year.⁸⁶⁵ Negative effects of this encompass a lack of competitiveness on the energy market as well as rising debt.

On 18 January 2015 the Brazilian Finance Minister Joaquim Levy announced tax increases for diesel and gasoline to take effect on 1 February 2015. Taxes on petrol would increase by R\$0.22 per litre and it would translate into an approximate 8.5% increase in the cost of petrol at the pump. The tax on diesel would increase by R\$0.15 and it would translate into an approximate 6.25% increase in the pump cost.⁸⁶⁶ The declaration also mentioned a secondary tax on fossil fuels to come into force 90 days after 1 February.⁸⁶⁷

Brazil has taken steps to facilitate energy access for its population.

On 23 February 2015, Brazil's Energy Research Company (EPE) has reported that it received applications for the registration of 521 projects for electricity generation that total 18,929 megawatts. The projects are scheduled to start in July 2105.⁸⁶⁸ Wind energy consists of 11,476 megawatts out of the total and encompasses 475 projects; natural gas based projects total 6,648 megawatts through 18 projects; hydro power consists of 201 megawatts through 15 projects; biomass projects total 604 megawatts over 13 projects.⁸⁶⁹

⁸⁶⁵ 'Petrobras earnings fall 20%; subsidized fuel strangling the economy', Merco Press 2014, Accessed 2 March 2015, <http://en.mercopress.com/2014/08/12/petrobras-earnings-down-20-subsidized-fuels-strangling-the-company>

⁸⁶⁶ "Petrol price increases inflation fears", Financial Times, 7 November 2014, Date Accessed 2 March 2015 <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/ff3c9d22-a032-11e4-aa89-00144feab7de.html#axzz3TOMD0gxf>

⁸⁶⁷ "Brazil Announces Tax Increases for 2015", The Wall Street Journal, 19 January 2015, Date Accessed, 1 March 2015, <http://www.wsj.com/articles/brazil-announces-tax-increases-for-2015-1421707755>

⁸⁶⁸ "EPE cadastra 18.929 megawatts de 521 projetos para Leilão A-3", Ministry of Mines and energy, 23 February 2015, Date Accessed 25 February 2015 http://www.mme.gov.br/web/guest/pagina-inicial/terceiro-destaque/-/asset_publisher/aJoleC7YEIJA/content/epe-cadastra-18-929-megawatts-de-521-projetos-para-leilao-a-3;jsessionid=A450119E0F41029CD0143200B01C44C5.srv154?redirect=http://www.mme.gov.br/web/guest/pagina-inicial/terceiro-destaque;jsessionid=A450119E0F41029CD0143200B01C44C5.srv154?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_aJoleC7YEIJA&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_p_col_id=_118_INSTANCE_Z6riVXO2ZrIF__column-3&p_p_col_count=1

⁸⁶⁹ "EPE Cadastra", Empresa de Pesquisa Energetica, 23 February 2015, Date Accessed 25 February 2015, <http://www.epe.gov.br/leiloes/Documents/LeilaoA32015cadastrados.pdf>

On 31 October 2014 Aneel, Brazil's energy regulator, has concluded its first solar power auction that will result in the construction of 31 solar parks bound to be operational by 2017. The projected installed capacity of all of the parks is 1048 megawatts and the overall cost is USD 1.67 billion.⁸⁷⁰

On 28 November 2014 GDF Suez won a state-run auction and will now build the Campo Largo wind energy complex by 2019. The wind farm project will yield around 330 megawatts out of which 150 are for the free market and 180 are part of a 20 year power purchase agreement.⁸⁷¹

On 8 December 2014 Brazil's EPE has published a summary of the alternative sources of energy. According to EPE a total of 530 wind farms are to be installed totalling 12895 megawatts along with 40 thermal biomass plants totalling 2076 megawatts.⁸⁷²

On 19 February 2015, Enel Green Energy has issued a press release stating that it will begin construction on two solar parks, Fontes Solar I and II, in the state of Pernambuco. The two parks will have a combined installed capacity of 11 megawatts and are supported by a 20-year power purchase agreement.⁸⁷³

As a result Brazil has only partial compliance with the energy commitment. Thus, Brazil has been awarded a compliance score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Burloiu

Canada: -1

Canada has failed to comply with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and to recognize the need to support the poor.

On 18 November 2014, the Canadian government announced Canada's strategy for its extractive sector operating abroad, including mining, oil, and gas. The strategy aimed "to ensure that energy will continue to represent an engine of economic growth for Canadians."⁸⁷⁴ This is a continuation of the Canadian Government's pledge "to ensure the long-term success of Canada's mining and oil and gas sectors by keeping taxes low, eliminating red tape, and modernizing the regulatory regime for major projects."⁸⁷⁵

⁸⁷⁰ "Brazil gives go-ahead to 31 solar parks in push for new energy", Reuters, 31 October 2014, Date Accessed 25 February 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/10/31/us-brazil-solar-auction-idUSKBN0IK2FB20141031>

⁸⁷¹ "GDF SUEZ wins power contracts for 535 MW in Brazil New Energy Auction", GDF Suez, 28 November 2014, Date Accessed 26 February 2015, <http://www.gdfsuez.com/en/journalists/press-releases/power-contracts-brazil-auction/>

⁸⁷² "570 projetos são cadastrados para o Leilão de Fontes Alternativas 2015", Empresa de Pesquisa Energetica, 8 December 2014, Date Accessed 28 February 2015, <http://www.epe.gov.br/leiloes/Documents/LeilaoFA2015/LeilaoFA2014.pdf>

⁸⁷³ "Enel Green Power Begins Construction On Two Photovoltaic Plants In Brazil", Enel Green Power, 19 February 2015, Date Accessed 25 February 2015, https://www.enelgreenpower.com/en-GB/media_investor/press_releases/release.aspx?iddoc=1663313

⁸⁷⁴ Harper Government Announces Latest Actions to Support Canadian Extractive Sector Abroad, Ministry of Natural Resources (Ottawa) 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=9&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=6683&nid=905749&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.tp1D=1&crtr.yrStrtVI=2014&crtr.kw=&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=3&crtr.yrndVI=2020&crtr.dyndVI=4>

⁸⁷⁵ Harper Government Announces Latest Actions to Support Canadian Extractive Sector Abroad, Ministry of Natural Resources (Ottawa) 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=9&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=6683&nid=905749&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.tp1D=1&crtr.yrStrtVI=2014&crtr.kw=&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=3&crtr.yrndVI=2020&crtr.dyndVI=4>

On 2 March 2015, the Canadian government proposed changes in the treatment of the Canadian Exploration Expenses (CEE), a tax credit that facilitates petroleum and natural gas exploration in Canada. The changes proposed are in the order of CAD21 million over the next five years and would ensure that “CEE treatment is not denied for the cost of otherwise eligible environmental studies and community consultations solely because they are a pre-condition to obtaining an exploration permit or license.”⁸⁷⁶

Canada has not taken action to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption nor has it encouraged effective policies that recognize the need to support the poor. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Frédérique Bouchard

China: -1

China has not complied with its commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies while providing support to the national vulnerable groups.

Between 28 November 2014 and 29 January 2015, the Chinese Ministry of Finance raised the taxes on gasoline, naphtha, solvent oil, lubricating oil, diesel, jet fuel and fuel oil three times.^{877,878} The current tax level is RMB 1.2 per litre for gasoline, naphtha, solvent oil and lubricating oil and RMB 1.52 per litre for diesel, jet fuel and fuel oil.⁸⁷⁹ The country increased its fuel-consumption tax for the first time in five years amid falling global oil prices as steps to “control environmental pollution, tackle climate change, promote energy conservation and encourage the development of new energy automobiles.”⁸⁸⁰ However, the government has come under a lot of scrutiny over its declared objectives and the legal procedure has been questioned.⁸⁸¹

While announcing the tax increases, the Chinese government pledged “to continue and refine subsidy policies for some groups who are in difficulties ... in order to support the healthy development of relevant industries and maintain social stability.” Yet, no evidence was found that it has taken new measures to facilitate access to energy for the vulnerable groups.⁸⁸²

⁸⁷⁶ Harper Government Reinforces Support for the Mining Industry during PDAC 2015, Natural Resources Canada (Toronto) 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?crtr.sj1D=&crtr.mnthndVI=9&mthd=advSrch&crtr.dpt1D=6683&nid=941379&crtr.lc1D=&crtr.tp1D=1&crtr.yrStrtVI=2014&crtr.kw=&crtr.dyStrtVI=1&crtr.aud1D=&crtr.mnthStrtVI=1&crtr.page=1&crtr.yrndVI=2020&crtr.dyndVI=4>.

⁸⁷⁷ “Chinese tax hikes slash fuel oil imports 30 pct so far this year”. Reuters (London), 25 March 2014. Date Accessed: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/03/25/china-oil-fueloil-idUSL3N0WP2Z720150325>

⁸⁷⁸ “Promote Air Pollution Control and Transformation of Development Patterns, The State Adjusts Consumption Tax Policy for Product Oil”. State Administration of Taxation (Beijing), 19 January 2015. Date Accessed: 18 May 2015 <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/2013/n2925/n2957/c1465330/content.html>

⁸⁷⁹ “Fuel Tax Adjustment Must Follow Statutory Tax”. Financial Times China (Beijing), 20 January 2015. Date Accessed: 17 May 2015, <http://www.ftchinese.com/story/001060207?full=y>

⁸⁸⁰ “Promote Air Pollution Control and Transformation of Development Patterns, The State Adjusts Consumption Tax Policy for Product Oil”. State Administration of Taxation (Beijing), 19 January 2015. Date Accessed: 18 May 2015 <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/2013/n2925/n2957/c1465330/content.html>

⁸⁸¹ “Fuel Tax Adjustment Must Follow Statutory Tax”. Financial Times China (Beijing), 20 January 2015. Date Accessed: 17 May 2015, <http://www.ftchinese.com/story/001060207?full=y>

⁸⁸² “Promote Air Pollution Control and Transformation of Development Patterns, The State Adjusts Consumption Tax Policy for Product Oil”. State Administration of Taxation (Beijing), 19 January 2015. Date Accessed: 18 May 2015 <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/2013/n2925/n2957/c1465330/content.html>

On 26 December 2015, the Chinese government announced that it would extend subsidies for new green vehicles to 2020 with the overall goal of having replaced 5 million cars with electric ones by 2020. The subsidies will only target locally manufactured electric cars and not imported ones and are aimed at offsetting China's fossil fuel consumption for transportation.⁸⁸³ The untargeted nature of this measure makes it non-compliant with the commitment.

While China has increased consumption tax on oil products, it has failed to formulate a clear strategy to phase out its inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. Furthermore, the government hasn't taken any measures to provide support to its vulnerable groups. Thus, China has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Burloiu

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognizing the need to support the poor.

On 8 January 2015, the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies issued a study that reveals 5.9 million of households or 22% in metropolitan France are in vulnerable situation in terms of affordability of energy generating resources. On average, households spend more than 8% of their total income on heating and hot water and over 4.5% on travel. In three regions energy vulnerability is the median range and represents over 25%: (1) Franche-Comté (26.0%); Auvergne (27.0%); and Lorraine (27.4%).

On 4 February 2015, Prime Minister Manuel Valls and Minister of Environment Ségolène Royal presented a new roadmap from the third environmental conference to the National Council for Ecological Transition.⁸⁸⁴ The project includes 74 measures focused on sustainable transportation, mobility, health and the environment.⁸⁸⁵ Measures in the roadmap included: 1) withdrawal of export subsidies for the most polluting coal-fired power plant projects in developing countries; 2) the implementation of a fund of up to EUR10,000 for the replacement of diesel vehicles; 3) the introduction of air quality certificates — green stickers to identify clean vehicles — beginning April 2015.⁸⁸⁶

In the same presentation, Prime Minister Valls did not specify the timing or schedule for termination of export credit for coal-fired plants. While not many projects in the world are equipped with trapping emissions technology, France will continue to fund developing countries where carbon

⁸⁸³ "China plans to extend green vehicle subsidies until 2020", Reuters, 30 December 2014, Date Accessed 27 February 2015, <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/30/us-china-autos-environment-idUSKBN0K806B20141230>

⁸⁸⁴ The Ecological Transition: This Is a Profound Transformation of Our Ways Of Life, and The French People Are Becoming Increasingly Aware of This. Government of France (Paris), 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-ecological-transition-this-is-a-profound-transformation-of-our-ways-of-life-and-the-french>.

⁸⁸⁵ The Ecological Transition: This Is a Profound Transformation of Our Ways Of Life, and The French People Are Becoming Increasingly Aware of This, Government of France (Paris) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-ecological-transition-this-is-a-profound-transformation-of-our-ways-of-life-and-the-french>.

⁸⁸⁶ The Ecological Transition: This Is a Profound Transformation of Our Ways Of Life, and The French People Are Becoming Increasingly Aware of This, Government of France (Paris) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/the-ecological-transition-this-is-a-profound-transformation-of-our-ways-of-life-and-the-french>.

dioxide capture and storage systems have been implemented.⁸⁸⁷ The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) ranked France the fifth-largest subsidizer of coal energy exports between 2007 and 2013.⁸⁸⁸ The measure to end fossil fuel subsidies in developing countries was also announced in the past, on March 2013, by French President François Hollande with no timeline for policy implementation.⁸⁸⁹

On 25 February 2015, the French government launched Mon Projet Renovation, an online tool for French homeowners and residents. The project was developed by the French Agency for the Environment and Energy Management (ADEME) and consists of a customized online questionnaire, custom energy conservation and efficiency tips. The project also intends to provide useful information on financial aid available to homeowners based on their responses.⁸⁹⁰

On 3 March 2015, the French Senate adopted a law on energy transition. The new “action and mobilization” legislation aims to 1) strengthen energy independence; 2) reduce gas emissions; 3) provide specific measures to foster growth of green energy; and 4) create new jobs. The law also seeks to address fuel poverty by introducing new measures, which focus on building energy efficiency.^{891,892}

Although, France has created a number of strategies to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, there is little evidence of policy implementation and lack of specific timeline. Thus, France is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Julia Kochneva

Germany: –1

Germany has not complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support for the poorest.

The German government has reduced subsidies to hard-coal mining from EUR2.1 billion in 2009 from to EUR1.9 billion in 2011.⁸⁹³ Germany has also gradually scaled back production and in 2014,

⁸⁸⁷ France to Axe Coal Subsidies while EU Stalls, EurActiv (Brussels) 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/development-policy/france-axe-coal-subsidies-while-eu-stalls-311878>.

⁸⁸⁸ France to Axe Coal Subsidies while EU Stalls, EurActiv (Brussels) 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/development-policy/france-axe-coal-subsidies-while-eu-stalls-311878>.

⁸⁸⁹ La France plus ambitieuse que l'UE sur l'interruption des subventions au charbon. EurActive (Brussels), 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.euractiv.fr/sections/aide-au-developpement/la-france-plus-ambitieuse-que-lue-sur-linterruption-des-subventions>.

⁸⁹⁰ Actualités, Comment Réover? Par où Commencer? L'Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Énergie (Paris), 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.ademe.fr/actualites>

⁸⁹¹ La transition énergétique pour la croissance verte, 21 April 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.gouvernement.fr/action/la-transition-energetique-pour-la-croissance-verte>

⁸⁹² La précarité énergétique concerne près de 6 millions de ménages en France. Le Figaro (Paris), 8 janvier 2015. Date of Access: 23 May 2015. <http://www.lefigaro.fr/conso/2015/01/08/05007-20150108ARTFIG00322-la-precarite-energetique-concerne-pres-de-6-millions-de-menages-en-france.php>

⁸⁹³ Germany: Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil-Fuels, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris), 2013. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/site/tadffss/DEU.pdf>.

Germany's coal-producing states eliminated subsidies.⁸⁹⁴ The government now assumes payment of all production subsidies, but is expected to phase them out by 2018.⁸⁹⁵

In 2010, the regulation permitting coal subsidies expired in Germany. The government successfully negotiated a deadline extension to 2018 to cut subsidies completely.⁸⁹⁶ On 2 July 2014, the German government announced EUR1.2 billion to phase out subsidies for hard-coal mining and the transition to more sustainable energy sources.⁸⁹⁷ The reductions to subsidies are, in part, due to increased market prices, which the German Hard Coal Corporation (RAG) expects to see increased revenues. These increased revenues are expected to help further reduce subsidies by EUR200 million in 2015 and EUR50 million in 2016.⁸⁹⁸

The German government is actively introducing incentives to encourage all households, including vulnerable groups, to purchase electricity from the renewable energy sector.⁸⁹⁹ In the draft budget for 2015, EUR255 million will be available for the market incentive program (MAP) for renewable energy installations to harness electricity and geothermal energy and biomass.⁹⁰⁰ Also, EUR568 million is earmarked towards construction of energy-efficient buildings and retrofitting.⁹⁰¹ These programs aim to shift the overall demand for energy, and to strengthen the German government's goal of reducing fossil fuel subsidies.

Germany has taken actions to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and support vulnerable groups through its active renewable energy subsidies however these actions have taken place prior to the compliance cycle. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Emily Tsui

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, while recognizing the need to support the poor.

On 27 February 2015, the Ministry of Finance released an official statement saying that "India shifted from a carbon subsidization regime to one of significant carbon taxation regime, from a negative

⁸⁹⁴ Germany: Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil-Fuels, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2013. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/site/tadffss/DEU.pdf>.

⁸⁹⁵ Germany: Inventory of Estimated Budgetary Support and Tax Expenditures for Fossil-Fuels, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 2013. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/site/tadffss/DEU.pdf>.

⁸⁹⁶ Germany Wins Extension of Coal Subsidies, Financial Times International Edition (Brussels) 10 December 2010. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/5f1fa75e-047c-11e0-a99c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3TBZpVXqw>.

⁸⁹⁷ Draft Budget for 2015, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Ministry/budget,did=646316.html>.

⁸⁹⁸ Draft Budget for 2015, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Ministry/budget,did=646316.html>.

⁸⁹⁹ Draft Budget for 2015, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Ministry/budget,did=646316.html>.

⁹⁰⁰ Draft Budget for 2015, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Ministry/budget,did=646316.html>.

⁹⁰¹ Draft Budget for 2015, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin), 2 July 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Ministry/budget,did=646316.html>.

price to an implicit positive price on carbon emissions. India has cut subsidies and increased taxes on fossil fuels, turning a carbon subsidy regime into one of carbon taxation.”⁹⁰²

On 28 February 2015, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in an official press release, said that the money will be used to promote clean energy. “With regard to coal, there’s a need to find a balance between taxing pollution and the price of power.”⁹⁰³

On 8 March 2015, as a part of the official 2015 budget, the government of India “is to decontrol diesel prices while at the same time increasing excise duty on petrol and diesel periodically to match the declining global prices.” It also says that “a measure of the subsidy arising from lower domestic prices compared to international prices have been eliminated. And in a series of actions since October 2014, excise duties have been imposed on diesel and petrol.”⁹⁰⁴

While India has reduced inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels, it has shown no indication to use the fund for the support of the poor and development. Thus, India is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Ujwal Ganguly

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support for vulnerable groups.

On 18 November 2014, Indonesian President Joko Widodo announced the trimming of petrol and diesel subsidies to increase the price by IDR2000 per litre.⁹⁰⁵ On 1 January 2015, President Widodo fully abolished gasoline and diesel subsidies, freeing up an estimated IDR200 trillion.⁹⁰⁶ Under the new pricing mechanism, gasoline will be sold at market price while solar diesel will be sold at IDR1,000 below the market price.⁹⁰⁷

On 4 November 2014, Executive Secretary Bambang Widianto of the National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (TNP2K) announced a series of programmes aimed at up to 15.5 million poor families in Indonesia. This includes the Family Welfare Deposit Program, which gives financial assistance via a deposit account “to improve welfare levels through the equitable distribution of funds.”⁹⁰⁸

⁹⁰² Press Information Bureau. Government of India, 27 Feb. 2015.

⁹⁰³ Singh, Rajesh Kumar. "Modi Commits to Clean Environment by Doubling India's Coal Tax." Bloomberg.com. Bloomberg

⁹⁰⁴ Jaitley, Arun. Budget 2015-2016 (n.d.): n. pag. Government of India, 28 Feb. 2015. Web. 21 Mar. 2015.

<<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2015-16/bs/bs.pdf>

⁹⁰⁵ Energy Prices in Indonesia: Fuel’s Errand, The Economist (London) 22 November 2014. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21633877-jokowi-trims-indonesias-inefficient-popular-petrol-subsidies-fuels-errand>

⁹⁰⁶ Ending Rhetoric Politics, Gasoline Subsidy Abolished, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/01/08/ending-rhetoric-politics-gasoline-subsidy-abolished.html>.

⁹⁰⁷ Indonesia Energy Subsidy Briefing, International Institute for Sustainable Development (CITY) February 2015. Date of Access 27 February 2015. http://www.iisd.org/gsi/sites/default/files/ffs_newsbriefing_indonesia_feb2015_eng.pdf.

⁹⁰⁸ Government Launches Family Welfare Deposit, KIP and KIS Programmes in Stages, The National Team for the Acceleration of Poverty Reduction (Jakarta) 14 November 2014. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://www.tnp2k.go.id/en/artikel/government-launches-family-welfare-deposit-kip82038203-and-kis-programmes-in-stages/>

A small subsidy of 1000 rupiah, or eight cents, per litre will remain on fuel used for public transport and fishermen, a poorer group in the country. Furthermore, economist Anton Gunawan from the University of Indonesia estimates that cash transfers to the poor and near-poor to make up for the subsidy cut will take up part of the extra budget saved.⁹⁰⁹

Indonesia has completely eliminated inefficient fossil fuel subsidies however, its efforts to support the nation's most vulnerable groups have taken place prior to the compliance cycle. Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Nancy Xue

Italy: -1

Italy has not complied with its commitment to reduce inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels, nor has it newly recognized any reason to support the poor.

In December 2014, Climate Actions Network released a report about fossil fuel subsidies in Europe. It clearly states that Italy has not released any official statement after 2012 regarding reduction of fossil fuel subsidies. The 2012 report states that "Italy has begun implementation of its plans to gradually eliminate, ahead of time, previously conceded feed-in tariffs for certain cogeneration facilities by pursuing voluntary agreements with private operators."⁹¹⁰

In November 2014, the ODI report for fossil fuel exploration stated that it was estimated that Italy uses approximately USD407.4 million for subsidies in fossil fuels that it gives to large corporations like *Eni* and *Shell*. The Italian government also provides a reduction in the excise tax paid on natural gas consumption for oil and gas field operations, including exploration.⁹¹¹

There is no record of Italy reducing its subsidies for fossil fuels in the current compliance period or supporting the poor. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Ujwal Ganguly

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to provide target support to the vulnerable groups that do not have access to fossil fuels.

Japan has disclosed no evidence of having inefficient fossil fuel subsidies in the G20 summits.⁹¹² However, the November 2014 report from the Oil Change International and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) indicates that Japan's fossil fuel subsidies were worth USD724 million in 2014. It should be noted that this is a decline from a total of USD2.5 billion in 2007.

The report also points out that with the aid of Japan Oil, Gas and Metals Corporation, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI),

⁹⁰⁹ "A Good Scrap," *The Economist*, 10 Jan 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/asia/21638179-jokowi-abandons-wasteful-fuel-subsidies-fiscal-prospects-brighten-good-scrap>.

⁹¹⁰ Climate Actions Network – Europe "MISSING PIECES: Steps to phasing out dirty fossil fuel subsidies in Europe" Dec. 2014

⁹¹¹ Makhijani, Shakuntala. Fossil Fuel Exploration Subsidies: Italy

⁹¹² Time to Change the Game: Fossil Fuel Subsidies and Climate (London) November 2013. Date of Access: 15 May 2015. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/8668.pdf>

the Japanese government provided USD21.1 billion in public finance for fossil fuel exploration from 2010 to 2013. That is an annual average of USD2.3 billion.⁹¹³

At the 2014 G20 Brisbane Summit, Japan sided with Australia in its disapproval of the United States' proposal to cut back on export subsidies for fossil fuels in third world countries — a move to curb carbon dioxide emissions. The Australian government argued that the move is inconsiderate of the needs of third world countries: the cut would raise energy prices, and these countries would resort to more inefficient means of generating electricity.⁹¹⁴

According to 7 November 2013 report from Energy Information Administration (EIA), the 2011 meltdown at Fukushima Dai-ichi and subsequent shutdown of all of its nuclear fleet has led Japan to heavily rely on fossil fuels. The EIA points out that Japan is the second largest net importer of fossil fuels, trailing behind China and in front of the United States.⁹¹⁵

On 11 February 2015, the EIA report points out that as of 2015, more than 86% of Japan's electricity generation was composed of fossil fuels, and nuclear power composed of 0%.

Furthermore, the EIA indicates that Japan imports virtually all of its fossil fuels. Japan spent 60% more for fossil fuel imports in 2013 compared to 2010, which is an increase of USD270 billion in the span of three years. It should be pointed out that the increase is partly due to the rise in international oil prices in that timespan.⁹¹⁶

On 2 December 2014, according to the Associated Press, Japan pledged USD1 billion in loans for the construction of coal plants in Indonesian cities of Paiton, Criebon, and Indramayu. Specifically, the JBIC, which is under the control of the Ministry of Finance, pledged USD729 million in loans to Paiton, USD214 million for Criebon, and USD15 million for Indramayu.⁹¹⁷

Furthermore, JBIC has also pledged USD630 million for India and Bangladesh for a similar cause, and has dozens of other smaller coal projects in Southeast Asia.⁹¹⁸

As of 2015, according to the *Wall Street Journal*, there are seven ongoing coal power projects. Specifically, Kensai Electric Power Co. and Marubeni Corp. is building a new 1.3 gigawatt coal power plant in the northern prefecture of Japan; Chubu Electric Power Co. plans to replace an old oil power plant near Nagoya with a 1 gigawatt coal power plant; Electric Power Development Co., Osaka Gas Co., and Ube Industries plan to build a 1.2 gigawatt coal power plant in west Japan.

⁹¹³ Fossil Fuel Exploration Subsidies: Japan (London/Washington) November 2014. Date of Access: 15 May 2015. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9270.pdf>

⁹¹⁴ Abbott Government Resists US Moves Against Coal Power (London) March 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/abbott-government-resists-us-moves-against-coal-power-20150326-1m7mxr.html>

⁹¹⁵ Japan is the Second Largest Net Importer of Fossil Fuels in the World (Washington, D.C.) 7 November 2013. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=13711#>

⁹¹⁶ Japan Plans to Restart Some Nuclear Plants in 2015 after Fukushima Shutdown (Washington, D.C.) 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.cfm?id=19951>

⁹¹⁷ Japanese Climate Finance Funds for Coal Highlight Lack of U.N. Rules (New York City) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/12/02/national/science-health/japanese-climate-finance-funds-coal-highlight-lack-u-n-rules/#.VVzgYEa85QK>

⁹¹⁸ Climate Funds for Coal Highlight Lack of U.N. Rules (New York City) 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 May 2015. <https://news.yahoo.com/climate-funds-coal-highlight-lack-un-rules-055042351.html>

Tokyo Electric Power Co. has also announced its plans to build a new coal power plant to replace an old 6 gigawatt oil power plant in Tokyo.⁹¹⁹

It is unclear whether these private electric utility corporations are receiving subsidies from the Japanese government for their coal power projects.

Japan introduced no new forms of support, nor improved on any of its existing subsidies that target the poor during the compliance-monitoring period. Thus, Japan is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Daniel C. Park

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing support to its vulnerable groups.

On 18 December 2014, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) notified the public that it plans to maintain the price floor of 500 KRW per coal briquette set back in 11 November 2009. MOTIE's intention behind the price floor was to stabilize coal briquette prices, and to protect the welfare of the working class.

Currently, due to the high production cost of coal briquettes (647 KRW), MOTIE has been subsidizing 275.3 KRW for every coal briquette sold to maintain the price floor of 500 KRW. Although MOTIE planned on raising the price floor, the 15% decrease in the overall usage of coal briquettes reduced the cost burden of the subsidies. As a result, MOTIE was able to maintain the price floor.

MOTIE also notified that any changes to the price floor will take effect after 31 December 2016, and that the price floor will remain fixed until then.⁹²⁰

On 26 February 2015, the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) ruled the operations of budget gas stations as fair business practice.⁹²¹ Budget gas stations are the former President Lee Myung-bak's response to high gas prices in 2011, and operate under the government-owned Korea National Oil Corporation (KNOC). A budget gas station is able to offer cheaper gas prices than its competitors due to the subsidies and tax benefits/breaks it receives.

The ruling comes after the Korea Oil Station Association filed a complaint against the KNOC to the FTC for exercising its privilege as a state-run company.⁹²²

On 17 December 2014, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance announced its plans to raise the import duty of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by 2% in 2015. Previously, while there was a 3% import duty

⁹¹⁹ Japan Continues to Re-embrace Coal (New York City) 12 May 2015. Date of Access: 20 May 2015.

<http://ktwop.com/2015/03/12/japan-plans-over-13gw-of-new-coal-fired-capacity-till-2025/>

⁹²⁰ 연탄가격 내년도 동결 2009년 이후 5년째, 이투뉴스 (Seoul) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.e2news.com/news/articleView.html?idxno=79420>

⁹²¹ 공정위, "알뜰주유소 불공정 행위 아냐", 지엔이타임즈 (Seoul) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.gnetimes.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=30873>

⁹²² 알뜰주유소와 시장경제, 동아일보 (Seoul) 14 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://english.donga.com/srv/k2srv.php3?biid=2015021438738>

charge on regular petroleum, LPG was exempt from any import duty charges. The working class uses LPG as motor/heating fuel.⁹²³

Korea has failed to rationalize and phase-out fossil fuel subsidies, but has made progress in providing support for its vulnerable groups during the compliance period. Thus, Korea is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Daniel C. Park

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to reduce subsidies for fossil fuels and recognize the need to help the poor.

In November 2014, the chief of the International Environmental Agency reported that “at least 27 nations are decreasing or ending the subsidies that hold down costs for fuels used to generate electricity, including coal and natural gas” and that Mexico is increasingly taking advantage of cheap crude oil by trimming fossil fuel subsidies, easing the way for renewable power that can help the environment.⁹²⁴

On 2 January 2015, *El Universal* newspaper reported that Mexico raised fuel prices 1.9% and may seek further increases, due to this cut in subsidies. It also stated that the lack of a subsidy leads to increased spending of the average citizen.⁹²⁵

In November 2014, according to the ODI report for Mexico, “state-controlled price-setting mechanism was modified so that gasoline, diesel, and LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] prices increase incrementally on a monthly basis at a constant rate, with the goal of the gradual elimination of subsidies.”⁹²⁶

Mexico has taken some action to remove fossil fuel subsidies however, has not taken concrete measures to support the poor. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Ujwal Ganguly

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on energy.

Russia has taken actions to eliminate inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide support for vulnerable groups.

On 18 March 2015, the government of the Russian Federation discussed the draft Energy Strategy of Russia for the period up to 2035.⁹²⁷ One of the strategy’s goals is to eliminate cross-subsidies to domestic consumers of electricity and heat energy. The strategy also provides for the widening of the

⁹²³ ‘서민 연료’ LPG 에 수입관세 2% 붙는다, 서울뉴스 (Seoul) 18 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.seoul.co.kr/news/newsView.php?id=20141218012020>

⁹²⁴ Nicola, Stefan. "Fossil Fuel Subsidies Fall in Gain for Renewables." Bloomberg.com. Bloomberg

⁹²⁵ Serrano, Noe Cruz. "Precio De La Gasolina En México, El Más Alto En Toda Norteamérica." El Universal

⁹²⁶ Makhijani, Shakuntala. "Fossil Fuel Exploration Subsidies: Republic of Mexico." ODI. ODI, 1 Nov. 2014

⁹²⁷ Government’s meeting on the draft Energy Strategy of Russia for the period up to 2035, Russian Government 18 March 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://government.ru/news/17269/>.

government's pilot project of targeted subsidies to energy consumers and introducing social consumption norms taking into consideration cross-regional differences.⁹²⁸

Russia has taken action towards elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while maintaining targeted support for vulnerable groups of energy consumers. Thus Russia is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: –1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, and to recognize the need to support vulnerable groups.

“In November 2014, the International Energy Agency (IEA) reported that 27 countries have been cutting back on fossil-fuel subsidies in some form or other.”⁹²⁹ However, Saudi Arabia has yet to announce any subsidy reforms.⁹³⁰

On 25 December 2015, the Saudi Arabia government revealed its budget for 2015 where it indeed maintained its expenses for fossil fuel subsidies.⁹³¹

On 29 January 2015, the Saudi Arabia's new ruler, King Salman bin Abdulaziz al Saud, appointed a new deputy oil minister and replaced the Supreme Council for Petroleum and Minerals⁹³² with a new Supreme Council for Economic Development.⁹³³ These notable changes in one of the two bodies that oversee the oil and gas sector in Saudi Arabia suggest a generational shift in the country's energy and economic strategies.⁹³⁴

In March 2015, the European Commission published an economic brief highlighting Saudi Arabia's consumption fossil fuel subsidies that will amount to USD62 billion in 2015. Furthermore, the International Monetary Fund estimates the country's post-tax subsidies to amount to USD116 billion for this year.⁹³⁵ However, the IEA reports an average subsidization of 77.3% on fuel, totalling

⁹²⁸ Energy Strategy for the period up to 2035 (draft), Russian Ministry of Energy 2014. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://minenergo.gov.ru/upload/iblock/621/621d81f0fb5a11919f912bfafb3248d6.pdf>.

⁹²⁹ One upside of cheap oil — countries are ditching their fossil-fuel subsidies, Vox Media (Washington) 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.vox.com/2015/1/29/7945525/fossil-fuel-subsidies>.

⁹³⁰ Fossil fuel subsidies Fall In Gain for Renewables, Bloomberg Business (New York City), 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-01-30/fossil-fuel-subsidies-fall-in-gain-for-renewables>.

⁹³¹ Saudi Arabia sticks to budget despite oil's slide, CNBC (New Jersey), 22 December 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://www.cnbc.com/id/102288637>

⁹³² Fossil fuel exploration subsidies: Saudi Arabia, Oil Change International (Washington), November 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/9268.pdf>.

⁹³³ New bureaucratic restructuring in Saudi oil powerhouse, World Bulletin (Istanbul), 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.worldbulletin.net/news/154519/new-bureaucratic-restructuring-in-saudi-oil-powerhouse>

⁹³⁴ Analysis - Saudi king keeps close hand on oil in remodelling strategic team, Reuters News (Riyadh) 3 March 2015. Date of Access: 3 March 2015. <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/03/03/uk-saudi-oil-policy-idUKKBNOLZ0MM20150303>.

⁹³⁵ Measuring Fossil Fuel Subsidies, European Commission (Brussels) March 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/publications/economic_briefs/2015/pdf/eb40_en.pdf

USD48.1 billion alone.⁹³⁶ Although it has recently set minimum standards for energy efficiency, the Saudi government has not yet proceeded to undertake any fossil fuel subsidy reform.

On 2 May 2015, Saudi Arabia called for the removal of language on the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies and the need to put a price on carbon during a joint session of the United Nations talks geared towards crafting a post-2015 development agenda.⁹³⁷

As per its rationalization of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, and the need to support the poor, Saudi Arabia has not complied with this commitment. Thus, Saudi Arabia is thus awarded a –1.

Analyst: Frédérique Bouchard

South Africa: –1

South Africa has failed to comply with its commitment to improve fossil fuel access for vulnerable groups.

On 30 January 2015, the South African government released its fuel process adjustment. South Africa continues to provide a subsidy for the consumption of petrol, diesel and illuminating paraffin, with the self-adjusting state levy mechanism rules.⁹³⁸ Also, the current downward trend of international fossil fuel prices has reduced funds available for petroleum subsidies to N458.68 billion from N971.14 billion in 2014.⁹³⁹

South Africa has failed to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and have not taken any explicit actions to support the poor. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score –1.

Analyst: Jasper Lim

Turkey: –1

Turkey has failed to comply with its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide support to vulnerable groups.

On 25 November 2014, the Turkish government's amended legislation on environmental impact assessments (EIA) entered into force. Following the amendment, coal power plants are exempt from

⁹³⁶ Fossil fuel consumption subsidy rates as a proportion of the full cost of supply, International Energy Agency (Paris) 2014. Date of Access: <https://www.iea.org/subsidy/>

⁹³⁷ UN post-2015, financing for development talks debate relationship, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (Geneva) 02 May 2015. Date of Access: 10 May 2015. <http://www.ictsd.org/bridges-news/bridges-africa/news/un-post-2015-financing-for-development-talks-debate-relationship>

⁹³⁸ Adjustment to the Fuel Prices – 4 February 2015, Country Department of Energy (CITY) 30 January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/fuelprice/2015/Fuel-Adjustment-February2015.pdf>; Adjustment to the Fuel Prices – 7 January 2015, Country Department of Energy (CITY) 2 January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/fuelprice/2015/Fuel-Adjustment-January2015.pdf>; Adjustment to the Fuel Prices – 3 December 2014, Country Department of Energy (CITY) 28 November 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/fuelprice/2014/Fuel-Adjustment-December2014.pdf>.

⁹³⁹ Petrol Subsidy Drops to N 0,90/litre...South Africa Cuts Petrol Price by N16, Daily Trust (CITY) 5 January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. <http://www.dailytrust.com.ng/daily/business/43535-petrol-subsidy-drops-to-n-0-90-litre-south-africa-cuts-petrol-price-by-n16>.

EIA regulations during the dismantling process after being shut down. Since power plants that do not use coal must follow these regulations, this constitutes an implicit subsidy to fossil fuels.⁹⁴⁰

On 23 December 2014, officials from Nebras Power disclosed that the company was in talks with the Turkish government regarding a USD14 billion investment to develop lignite coalmines in the Afşin-Elbistan region.⁹⁴¹ An agreement was signed on 22 February 2015, to study the potential of such a development. This included Nebras Power among a consortium of three Japanese companies and two Qatari companies.⁹⁴²

On 2 February 2015, Turkish newspaper *Hürriyet* reported that the Family and Social Policies Ministry had spent TRY213 million on health care and social protection in 2013. Coal aid for consumers was distributed through the Social Aid and Solidarity Fund, commonly known as the Fak-Fuk-Fon. This conclusion was based in part on data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.⁹⁴³ During the same year, the Turkish government spent upwards of USD730 million in subsidies to the coal industry.⁹⁴⁴

On 4 February 2015, the Turkish Energy Commission announced approximately USD15 billion of investments in coal and natural gas from 2015-18 as part of the country's Tenth Development Plan. This amounts to 30% of the plan's total investment in energy.⁹⁴⁵

No evidence was found that the Turkish government has taken any measures to reform its coal subsidies during the compliance cycle. Thus, Turkey receives a score of -1.

Analyst: Colin McEwen

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to phase out fossil fuel subsidies while providing support to the national vulnerable groups.

On 3 December 2014, Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne announced GBP60 million towards multiple energy commitments in the government's Official Autumn Statement 2014.⁹⁴⁶

⁹⁴⁰ Subsidies to Coal and Renewable Energy in Turkey, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, Canada, 24 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 May 2015.

http://www.iisd.org/gsi/sites/default/files/ffsandrens_turkey_coal_eng.pdf

⁹⁴¹ Qatari energy firm to invest \$14bn in Turkey, Turkish Weekly, Ankara, Turkey, 23 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/177623/qatari-energy-firm-to-invest-14bn-in-turkey.html>

⁹⁴² Qatar-Japan consortium to study projects in Turkey's Afşin-Elbistan, Hürriyet Daily News, Istanbul, Turkey 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/qatar-japan-consortium-to-study-projects-in-turkeys-afsin-elbistan.aspx?pageID=238&nID=78721&NewsCatID=345>

⁹⁴³ Social protection in Turkey, too many words with too little content, Hürriyet Daily News, Istanbul, Turkey 2 February 2015. Date of Access: March 1, 2015.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/social-protection-in-turkey-too-many-words-with-too-little-content-.aspx?pageID=238&nID=77745&NewsCatID=344>

⁹⁴⁴ Turkey's Coal Subsidies Equaled US\$730 Million in 2013, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Winnipeg, Canada, 27 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 May 2015.

<https://www.iisd.org/media/turkey%E2%80%99s-coal-subsidies-equaled-us730-million-2013>

⁹⁴⁵ Turkey: Major investment in alternative energy planned, Anadolu Agency, Ankara, Turkey 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/economy/460848--turkey-major-investment-in-alternative-energy-planned>

⁹⁴⁶ Autumn Statement 2014. HM Treasury 3 (London), December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

These commitments included: 1) a commitment to reduce the tax on oil and gas companies operating in the North Sea by 2%; 2) an increase in the maximum duration of the Ring Fence Expenditure Supplement to 10 years from its current level of six; and 3) a tax exemption on 62.5% of capital expenditure for the development of “high pressure, high temperature projects.”⁹⁴⁷ These projects will promote additional investment, jobs and overall improvements to the UK supply chain.⁹⁴⁸

On 19 December 2014, Energy Secretary Ed Davey confirmed the implementation of a capacity market subsidy for future energy supply. The subsidy was announced as GBP 19.40 per kilowatt. Approximately 19% of this future supply is expected to come from either coal or biomass.⁹⁴⁹ The capacity market plan is also the subject of a legal challenge at the European Court of Justice for its alleged unfair advantage to fossil fuel producers.⁹⁵⁰

On 9 January 2015, the think tank Policy Exchange released a report entitled *Warmer Homes* on the state of fuel poverty in the United Kingdom. It details that the British government allocated 3.2 billion GBP in the 2014/15 fiscal year to alleviate fuel poverty. However, due to poor targeting, only one third of this amount actually benefited the fuel poor.⁹⁵¹

On 3 March 2015, the Department of Energy and Climate Change announced a new strategy aimed at reducing fuel poverty — the first proposal for more than 10 years. The document is based on a legally binding target, which stipulates that as “many households as reasonably practicable” should be energy-efficient band C or higher by 2030. Early measures include regulations that will forbid private landlords to rent out inefficient properties and an extension of the ECO scheme until 2017 in order to make 500,000 properties cheaper and easier to heat.⁹⁵²

Though the UK did not list any inefficient fossil fuel subsidies at the G20 Los Cabos Summit, the government has enacted policies that introduced new subsidies. Thus, the UK receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Colin McEwen

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and provide support to its vulnerable groups.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382327/44695_Accessible.pdf

⁹⁴⁷ Autumn Statement 2014. HM Treasury (London), 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382327/44695_Accessible.pdf

⁹⁴⁸ Autumn Statement 2014. HM Treasury (London), 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/382327/44695_Accessible.pdf

⁹⁴⁹ £1bn subsidy in energy capacity auction will boost coal and nuclear power. The Guardian (London), 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 8 May 2015.

⁹⁵⁰ Legal Challenge to Government’s £2.5bn Subsidy Scheme for Fossil Fuel industry, The Independent (London) 5 December 2014. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/legal-challenge-to-governments-25bn-subsidy-scheme-for-fossil-fuel-industry-9907303.html>.

⁹⁵¹ Warmer Homes: Improving fuel poverty and energy efficiency in the UK. Policy Exchange (London), 9 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/publications/category/item/warmer-homes-improving-fuel-poverty-and-energy-efficiency-policy-in-the-uk>

⁹⁵² Press release: A strategy to end cold homes for good. Department of Energy and Climate Change (London), 3 March 2015. Date of Access: 8 May 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-strategy-to-end-cold-homes-for-good>

A 2014 report by Oil Change International found that the US government provided USD21.6 billion worth of subsidies to the oil, gas and coal industries.⁹⁵³ On 2 February 2015, the Obama administration introduced cuts to fossil fuel tax preferences in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Budget. The proposal would cut approximately USD4.434 billion in fossil fuel tax breaks, including 1) enhanced oil recovery credits; 2) covering expenses of intangible drilling costs; 3) covering expensing of exploration and development costs of coal; and 4) capital gains treatment for royalties.⁹⁵⁴ The Office of Management and Budget also projects cuts to fossil fuel tax preferences to total USD28.384 billion by the fiscal year 2020.⁹⁵⁵ In addition, the US has committed itself to the voluntary peer-review process on inefficient fuel subsidies.⁹⁵⁶

The United States has also worked to provide support for vulnerable groups. The US government has not increased the federal excise tax on gasoline of USD18.4 cents per gallon since 1993, subsidizing fuel prices for all.⁹⁵⁷ As a result, the United States is pays one of the lowest rates for fuel among the members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.⁹⁵⁸ There are also several continued programs that provide access specifically to vulnerable groups. The Weatherization Assistance Program is a partnership between the United States Department of Energy, all 50 states, the District of Columbia and territories, and three tribal organizations to make homes more energy efficient for about 100,000 low-income families annually.⁹⁵⁹

On 18 March 2015, the Department of Energy granted approximately USD6 million to eleven tribal communities for energy-efficiency retrofit and clean energy projects as a part of their longstanding Tribal Energy Program.⁹⁶⁰

On 21 January 2015, the Office of Community Services, under the Administration of Children and Families announced USD300 million in available funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, on top of a previous USD3.05 billion in October 2014.⁹⁶¹ The program provides

⁹⁵³ Cashing in on All of the Above: U.S. Fossil Fuel Production Subsidies Under Obama, Oil Change International (Washington D.C.), July, 2014. Access Date: 20 March, 2015.

http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2014/07/OCI_US_FF_Subsidies_Final_Screen.pdf

⁹⁵⁴ The Budget for Fiscal Year 2016, Office of Management and Budget (Washington D.C.) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

⁹⁵⁵ The Budget for Fiscal Year 2016, Office of Management and Budget (Washington D.C.) 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/budget/fy2016/assets/budget.pdf>

⁹⁵⁶ Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform Roundtable Highlights a Global Problem, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.), 17 April, 2014. Access Date: 19 March, 2015.

<https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2014/04/17/fossil-fuel-subsidy-reform-roundtable-highlights-global-problem>

⁹⁵⁷ Petroleum Marketing Explanatory Notes, United States Energy Information Administration (Washington D.C.) July 2014. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/marketing/monthly/pdf/enote.pdf>

⁹⁵⁸ The Real Reason U.S. Gas is So Cheap is Americans Don't Pay the True Cost of Driving, Atlantic: CityLab (Washington D.C.), 5 Jan, 2015. Access Date: 20 March, 2015.

<http://www.citylab.com/commute/2015/01/the-real-reason-us-gas-is-so-cheap-is-americans-dont-pay-the-true-cost-of-driving/384200/>

⁹⁵⁹ Weatherization and Intergovernmental, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) September 2011. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2014/01/f7/wip_factsheet.pdf

⁹⁶⁰ Energy Department Selects 11 Tribal Communities to Deploy Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Technologies, US Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 18 March 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.

<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/pdfs/tep-de-foa-0001021.pdf>

⁹⁶¹ LIHEAP Dear Colleague on Second Funding Release FY 2015, Office of Community Services (Washington D.C.) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/liheap-dear-colleague-on-second-funding-release-fy-2015>

assistance for low-income families to manage costs associated with home energy bills, energy crises, and weatherization and energy-related minor home repairs.⁹⁶²

The United States has proposed significant action on cutting inefficient fuel subsidies, and has provided support for vulnerable groups. Thus, the United States is awarded the score of +1.

Analyst: Jasper Lim

European Union: +1

The European Union has complied with its commitment to rationalize and phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. It has focused on the development of new strategies to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and minimize energy costs.

On 17 November 2014, the EU outlined its energy policy priorities at the Conference on EU Energy Policy and Competitiveness in Brussels. The priorities include 1) building affordable, secure, and sustainable energy by increasing cooperation with EU members in the Mediterranean region, and with non-members such as Norway and Algeria; 2) the common purchase of gas based on World Trade Organization (WTO) rules; and 3) a target at the EU level of at least 27% to improve energy efficiency.⁹⁶³

On 25 February 2015, the European Commission announced a strategy to achieve a resilient Energy Union with emphasis on climate change policy. The Energy Union aims to reduce dependence on single suppliers, reliance on neighbouring countries and strives to encourage the free flow of energy across European borders, allowing domestic energy to be easily distributed and consumed.⁹⁶⁴ It also ensures European producers can expand their exports and become more competitive in a global market.⁹⁶⁵

On 26 February 2015, the Energy Union announced it would enable EU countries facing an energy shortage to utilize energy surpluses in other member states. This will improve energy consumption efficiency and eliminate the need for governments to buy an excess of production.⁹⁶⁶ Under the Capacity Mechanism, governments will provide financial compensation to gas and coal companies for the total amount of power they produce. In the absence of shortages, the program will become a subsidy, and companies will be compensated for their idle capacity.⁹⁶⁷

⁹⁶² LIHEAP Brochure, Office of Community Services (Washington D.C.) 1 November 2009. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/liheap-brochures>

⁹⁶³ Opening Speech – EU Energy Policy and Competitiveness, SOURCE (Brussels) 17 November 2015. Date of access: 26 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-14-1883_en.htm.

⁹⁶⁴ Energy Union: Secure, Sustainable, Competitive, Affordable Energy for Every European, The European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4497_en.htm.

⁹⁶⁵ Energy Union: Secure, Sustainable, Competitive, Affordable Energy for Every European, The European Commission (Brussels) 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4497_en.htm.

⁹⁶⁶ Energy Union Targets Renewables Subsidies, Boosts Idle Coal Plants, EurActiv (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/energy-union-targets-renewables-subsidies-boosts-idle-coal-plants-312280>.

⁹⁶⁷ Energy Union Targets Renewables Subsidies, Boosts Idle Coal Plants, EurActiv (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/energy/energy-union-targets-renewables-subsidies-boosts-idle-coal-plants-312280>.

On 26 February 2015, the Energy Efficiency Financial Institution Group, an expert group established by the European Commission and United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, published its *Final Report Covering Buildings, Industries, and SMEs*. The report recommended creating a cost database and project-rating system for the transparent assessment of energy renovation projects for buildings, and to address barriers to the expansion of the green mortgage market.⁹⁶⁸

On 27 February 2015, Maroš Šefčovič, Vice-President of the Energy Union, announced a new Framework Strategy. The new framework addresses key policy components of the project, including stress tests for the gas sector to ensure a stable supply in the future and transparency practices.⁹⁶⁹ The report will be updated every two years to reflect current energy prices. Another component is increasing financial access to improve energy efficiency in the transport and buildings sector, giving priority to low-carbon practices.⁹⁷⁰

The EU has complied with its commitment by implementing policies that will balance energy supply across member states and reduce energy costs for residents. Thus, the European Union is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Julia Kochneva

⁹⁶⁸ New report: Boosting Finance in Energy Efficiency Investments in Buildings, Industry and SMEs, European Commission (Brussels) 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/news/new-report-boosting-finance-energy-efficiency-investments-buildings-industry-and-smes>.

⁹⁶⁹ Driving the EU Forward: the Energy Union, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-4520_en.htm.

⁹⁷⁰ Driving the EU Forward: the Energy Union, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_SPEECH-15-4520_en.htm.

9. Energy: Clean Technology

“G20 countries agree to work together to ... Encourage and facilitate the design, development, demonstration ... of innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies.”

G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa	-1		
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85	

Background

The G20 leaders made their first commitment to develop energy efficiency and clean energy technologies at the 2009 London Summit.⁹⁷¹ At the Pittsburgh Summit also in 2009, the G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to stimulate investment in clean energy, renewables and energy efficiency, as well as to provide financial and technical support for such projects in developing countries.⁹⁷² This commitment was reiterated at the 2010 Seoul Summit.⁹⁷³ At the 2011 Cannes Summit, leaders developed the commitment further by referencing the United Nations Secretary General’s Sustainable Energy for All initiative.⁹⁷⁴ At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, the leaders once again reaffirmed their commitment to cleaner and more efficient technologies, but also highlighted

⁹⁷¹ Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, G20 Information Center 2 April 2009. Date of Access: 20 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0402.html>.

⁹⁷² G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Center 25 September 2009. Date of Access: 20 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0925.html>.

⁹⁷³ The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Center 12 November 2010. Date of Access: 20 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>.

⁹⁷⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration: Building Our Common Future, G20 Information Center (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Date of Access: 20 January 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>.

the importance of enhancing the efficiency of markets and shifting towards a more sustainable energy future.⁹⁷⁵

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to facilitate the design, development, demonstration of innovative energy technologies, focusing particularly on clean energy technologies.

Examples of policy actions that might facilitate the development of new energy technologies include incentives for the private sector to adopt and develop such technologies (implementation of credits and tax credits for private investment in clean energy technology research and development; the establishment of privileged loans for clean technology research and development; and setting up a certification system for companies that invest in clean energy technology research and development, establishment of an emission trading mechanism that would enable private companies to sell carbon credits they gained from investing in clean energy technology research and development), funding existing or launching new public scientific institutions occupied in energy technology research.

According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) clean energy comprises such spheres as renewable energy, electric vehicles, nuclear power and biofuels.⁹⁷⁶ The IEA uses the definition of renewable energy as “energy derived from natural processes (e.g., sunlight and wind) that are replenished at a faster rate than they are consumed. Solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and some forms of biomass are common sources of renewable energy.”⁹⁷⁷

To achieve full compliance a member should take actions aimed at promotion of new clean energy technologies, while the promotion of new energy technologies which can not be described as “clean” or environmentally friendly constitutes partial compliance.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member fails to take actions to promote innovative energy technologies.
0	Member takes actions to promote innovative energy technologies BUT does not take actions to promote clean energy technologies.
+1	Member takes actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies.

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies.

On 10 December 2014, Miguel Galuccio, President of YPF (Argentinian energy company, in which the government owns 51% of capital), closed a deal with Shamsul Azhar bin Abbas, Vice-President of PETRONAS Logistics and Maritime Business, Malaysia’s oil company, to invest USD550 million in Vaca Muerta, a major deposit of tight oil (shale oil) and shale gas.⁹⁷⁸ Thus, this action might be considered as a step of Argentinean government to promote innovative energy technologies that would be needed for the extraction unconventional energy resources.

⁹⁷⁵ St.Petersburg Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Center 6 September 2013. Date of Access: 20 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>.

⁹⁷⁶ Clean energy technologies, IEA. Date of access 20 January 2015. <http://www.iea.org/topics/cleanenergytechnologies/>.

⁹⁷⁷ FAQ Renewable energy, IEA. Date of access 21 January 2015. <http://www.iea.org/aboutus/faqs/renewableenergy/>.

⁹⁷⁸ YPF cerró un acuerdo de inversión en Vaca Muerta, Fortuna. 10 December 2014. Date of Access 7 April 2015. <http://fortunaweb.com.ar/2014-12-10-153789-yfp-cierra-acuerdo-de-inversion-en-vaca-muerta/>.

On 28 January 2015, YPF and Chinese oil company Sinopec reached a memorandum of understanding with the aim to jointly develop projects to produce oil and gas extraction, both conventional and unconventional (one of the targets for investment will be the Vaca Muerta deposit).⁹⁷⁹

On 19 February, the recently constructed Atucha II nuclear power plant reached its maximum energy production. Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner took part in the ceremony of the plant's inauguration.⁹⁸⁰

Argentina has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 29 January 2015, the Cristinaapura contratos por obras millonarias con Rusia (a project organized by the National Atomic Energy Commission, the National University of San Martín and five private companies) constructed a pilot solar plant to produce photovoltaic energy at Marambio Base, Argentinean Air Force scientific and military station located on the Antarctic continent.⁹⁸¹

On 21 March 2015, the first meeting of the Argentinean Association of Renewable Energy Installers took place under the aegis of the IRESUD project in order to promote the use of clean energy technologies.⁹⁸²

On 27 March 2015, it was reported that IRESUD and the National Technological University (NTU) had carried out a pilot installation of photovoltaic panels in the Mendoza Regional Faculty of the NTU. At the moment the facility is already producing electric power.⁹⁸³

On 3 April 2015, the Ministry of Federal Planning, Public Investment and Services reported significant progress in the implementation of one of its projects, the construction and commissioning of thermal plant Guillermo. This project (together with the expansion of the port of Bahía Blanca and expanding pipeline capacity in the province) requires USD685 million of investment and will start producing energy in the second quarter of 2015.⁹⁸⁴

⁹⁷⁹ YPF firmó un acuerdo de inversión con la petrolera china Sinopec. *Télam Economía*. 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.telam.com.ar/notas/201501/93274-yfp-petrolera-china-sinopec-acuerdo-inversion-vaca-muerta.html>.

⁹⁸⁰ Atucha 2 Reaches 100% Rated Power, *World Nuclear News*. 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/NN-Atucha-2-reaches-100-percent-rated-power-19021502.html>.

⁹⁸¹ Electricidad con paneles solares en la Base Marambio, Proyecto de Interconexión a Red de Energía Solar Urbana Distribuida (IRESUD). 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://iresud.com.ar/electricidad-con-paneles-solares-en-la-base-marambio/>.

⁹⁸² 1º Encuentro de la Asociación Argentina de Instaladores de Energías Renovables. Electricidad con paneles solares en la Base Marambio, Proyecto de Interconexión a Red de Energía Solar Urbana Distribuida (IRESUD). 10 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://iresud.com.ar/1o-encuentro-de-la-asociacion-argentina-de-instaladores-de-energias-renovables/>.

⁹⁸³ La instalación piloto de IRESUD en UTN-Mendoza ya se encuentra inyectando, Proyecto de Interconexión a Red de Energía Solar Urbana Distribuida (IRESUD). 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 May 2015. <http://iresud.com.ar/la-instalacion-piloto-de-iresud-en-utn-mendoza-ya-se-encuentra-inyectando/>

⁹⁸⁴ Avanza la construcción de la Central Térmica Guillermo Brown, Ministerio de Planificación Federal, Inversión Pública y Servicios. 3 April 2015. Date of Access: 1 May 2015. <http://www.minplan.gob.ar/noticia/19713/avanza-la-construccion-de-la-central-termica-guillermo-brown.html>

In addition, the construction of two hydroelectric dams in the province of Santa Cruz started in the middle of 2013 is underway, aimed at producing as much as 10% of Argentinean total energy demand in 2008.^{985,986}

During the compliance period Argentina has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 1 December 2014, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency announced a AUD2 million funding to support the development of a solution for collecting renewable biomass from fast-growing trees.⁹⁸⁷

On 18 February 2015, the Carnegie Perth Wave Energy Project's onshore power station was opened. "This is the first array of wave power generators to be connected to an electricity grid in Australia and worldwide," said the Australian Renewable Energy Agency CEO Ivor Frischknecht. The AUD32 million project was supported by AUD13 million funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.⁹⁸⁸

On 23 March 2015, the first section of the Nyngan Solar Plant in western New South Wales, Australia, was opened and began feeding energy to the National Electricity Market. The plant's current power capacity is 25 megawatts and is expected to reach 102 megawatts on completion. The plant is a part of the AGL solar project, supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency with AUD166.7 million.⁹⁸⁹

On 27 March 2015, a new concentrated solar photovoltaic power tower was unveiled in Newbridge, Victoria. This unique facility, which will supply 200 kilowatts to a local agriculture business, was a result of the AUD3.6 million pilot project, supported by AUD1.7 million funding from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.⁹⁹⁰

On 13 April 2015, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency announced the second round of its Research and Development Programme worth AUD20 million. The program is aimed at supporting "industry-partnered projects that seek to develop and commercialize renewable energy

⁹⁸⁵ China will build and finance two dams in Patagonia equivalent to 10% of Argentine power demand, MercoPress. 22 August 2013. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://en.mercopress.com/2013/08/22/china-will-build-and-finance-two-dams-in-patagonia-equivalent-to-10-of-argentine-power-demand>.

⁹⁸⁶ Las represas y un proyecto distinto, A la Arena. 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.laarena.com.ar/opinion-las_represas_y_un_proyecto_distinto-132095-111.html

⁹⁸⁷ Renewable biomass from fast growing trees, Australian Renewable Energy Agency 1 December 2014. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/media/renewable-biomass-from-fast-growing-trees/>.

⁹⁸⁸ Australia's first renewable energy from a wave power array, Australian Renewable Energy Agency 18 February 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/media/australias-first-renewable-energy-from-a-wave-power-array/>.

⁹⁸⁹ Australia's largest solar plant fires up, Australian Renewable Energy Agency 23 March 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/news/australias-largest-solar-plant-fires-up/>.

⁹⁹⁰ First of a kind concentrated solar PV power tower, Australian Renewable Energy Agency 27 March 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/media/first-of-a-kind-concentrated-solar-pv-power-tower/>.

technologies.”⁹⁹¹ While the first round of the program was devoted to developing solar energy research and development, the second one is to promote collaboration between researchers and industry.⁹⁹²

On 5 May 2015, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency CEO Ivor Frischknecht announced that the first of around 650,000 panels had been installed at AGL Energy Limited’s (AGL) Broken Hill solar photovoltaic plant. The Broken Hill plant is also a part of the AGL solar project, supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency funding.⁹⁹³

During the compliance period Australia has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies

On 5 February 2015, a working group from Brazil and the United Kingdom held a meeting in Brasilia that is a part of a project on innovation in the energy sector, in partnership with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, the National Electric Energy Agency and the Embassy of the United Kingdom, with the performers the CGEE and the Carbon Trust — a European organization that operates in various parts of the world with a mission to accelerate the transition to a sustainable low-carbon economy.⁹⁹⁴

Brazil has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 5 December 2014, at the Centro de Energias Renováveis da Universidade Federal de Pernambuco it was mentioned that Brazil would become capable of generating about 3.5 gigawatts of solar power. Also, there was emphasized the impact of the call No. 13/2011 and Normative Resolution 482/2012, which promote incorporation of solar power into the whole electricity distribution systems.⁹⁹⁵

On 8 December 2014, the state organization Energy Research Company registered 570 projects to the Alternative Sources Auction (LFA) 2015, scheduled for 27 April 2015. Among them there are

⁹⁹¹ ARENA opens \$20 m R&D round for industry-partnered projects, Australian Renewable Energy Agency 13 April 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/media/arena-opens-20-m-rd-round-for-industry-partnered-projects/>.

⁹⁹² Research and Development Programme, Australian Renewable Energy Agency. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/initiatives-and-programmes/research-and-development-programme/>.

⁹⁹³ Solar plant taking shape at iconic Broken Hill. Australian Renewable Energy Agency 5 May 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://arena.gov.au/media/solar-plant-taking-shape-at-iconic-broken-hill/>.

⁹⁹⁴ Brasil e Reino Unido Concluem Workshop na Área de Energia, Brazilian Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

http://www.mcti.gov.br/noticias/-/asset_publisher/lqV53KMvD5rY/content/brasil-e-reino-unido-concluem-workshop-na-area-de-energia;jsessionid=A958B7B8B38AC90743A04E1F8DFD14E1

⁹⁹⁵ Sudene e UFPE Debatem Utilização de Energia Solar no Nordeste, Portal Brasil 5 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/12/sudene-e-ufpe-debatem-utilizacao-de-energia-solar-no-nordeste>

530 wind farms, totalling 12,865 megawatts of installed capacity, and 40 thermal power plants biomass, totalling 2,067 megawatts.⁹⁹⁶

On 26 December 2014, the National Institute of Technology (INT/MCTI) developed the technology to convert the greenhouse gas, biogas into hydrogen in power by a fuel cell. The study was conducted by a team led by technologist Fábio Bellot Noronha.⁹⁹⁷

On 30 December 2014, the National Institute of Technology of Brazil received about USD2.9 million from the government budget for development of innovation technologies for production and use of biodiesels oils derived from microalgae.⁹⁹⁸

On 31 December 2014, professor of the Federal University of Santa Catarina Roberto Bianchini Derner stated that the institution received about USD 600,000 of the budget funds from the Department of Technological Development and Innovation (Setec) of MCTI to study the potential of microalgae to produce biodiesel.⁹⁹⁹

On 26 January 2015, the Union of Sugar Cane Industry Association (UNICA) and the Trade Chamber (CCEE), Brazilian official body, launched the Green Seal Energy certificate, which is a part of the Bioelectricity Certification Program. It will allow the exchange of information between UNICA and CCEE for confirmation on the contractual origin of the electricity sold by plants powered by sugar cane biomass in the free energy market.¹⁰⁰⁰

On 27 January 2015, in Brasilia, MCTI managers and representatives of the German Agency for International Cooperation held the first meeting of the year for planning actions under the Project Support Heliothermic Energy Development in Brazil (DKTI-CSP). They discussed details of bilateral cooperation in building the first solar thermal plant in Brazil. It is expected to be constructed by the end of 2016. The project has accumulated about USD8.8 million.¹⁰⁰¹

⁹⁹⁶ Leilão Terá 530 Usinas Eólicas e 40 de biomassa, Portal Brasil 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/12/leilao-tera-530-usinas-eolicas-e-40-de-biomassa>

⁹⁹⁷ Gás de Lixo Vira Hidrogênio para Produção Limpa de Energia, Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia de Brasil 26 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www.int.gov.br/sala-de-imprensa/noticias/item/8036-gas-de-lixo-vira-hidrogenio-para-producao-limpa-de-energia>

⁹⁹⁸ INT Ampliará Capacidade de Pesquisa do Biodiesel a Partir de Microalgas, Brazilian Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação 30 Decembre 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

http://www.mcti.gov.br/visualizar?p_p_auth=Sj5CYUYA&p_p_id=101&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_col_id=column-

[2&p_p_col_count=1&_101_struts_action=%2Fasset_publisher%2Fview_content&_101_assetEntryId=185710&_101_type=content&_101_urlTitle=int-ampliar-capacidade-de-pesquisa-do-biodiesel-a-partir-de-microalgas](http://www.mcti.gov.br/visualizar?p_p_auth=Sj5CYUYA&p_p_id=101&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_col_id=column-2&p_p_col_count=1&_101_struts_action=%2Fasset_publisher%2Fview_content&_101_assetEntryId=185710&_101_type=content&_101_urlTitle=int-ampliar-capacidade-de-pesquisa-do-biodiesel-a-partir-de-microalgas)

⁹⁹⁹ Potencial das Microalgas Estimula Pesquisa com Biodiesel em Santa Catarina, Brazilian Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação 31 Decembre 2014, Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

http://www.mcti.gov.br/visualizar?p_p_id=101&p_p_lifecycle=0&p_p_state=maximized&p_p_mode=view&_101_urlTitle=potencial-das-microalgas-estimula-pesquisa-com-biodiesel-em-santa-catarina&_101_struts_action=%2Fasset_publisher%2Fview_content&_101_type=content&_101_assetEntryId=188111

¹⁰⁰⁰ UNICA e CCEE Emitem Primeiras Certificações do Selo Energia Verde, Portal Brasil 27 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/01/unica-e-ccee-emitem-primeiras-certificacoes-do-selo-energia-verde>

¹⁰⁰¹ Brasil e Alemanha se Reúnem para Discutir Planejamento de Projeto de Energia Heliotérmica, Brazilian Fundação de Desenvolvimento de Pesquisa 27 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.

<http://www.fundep.ufmg.br/pagina/3289/brasil-e-alemanha-se-ree-250-nem-para-discutir-planejamento-de-projeto-de-energia-helote-233-rmica.aspx>

On 27 February 2015, the wind farm Geribatu opened in Santa Vitória do Palmar. It is one of the points of expansion, diversification and energy sustainability program in Brazil. The resources of the Growth Acceleration Program (PAC) will enable the country to have 218 Wind Power Plants (UEEs) by 2017 and 130 (60%) of them have already been completed.¹⁰⁰²

On 5 March 2015, Minister of Mines and Energy Eduardo Braga said the government will reduce taxes on distributed energy generation. The measure aims to increase competitiveness of renewable energy sources, especially solar power.¹⁰⁰³

On 13 March 2015, Brazil and the US launched a program in nanotechnology for renewable energy. The collaboration between Brazil and the United States aims to accelerate the development of technologies for renewable and sustainable energy through investments in nanotechnology. In the context of the program there was created the Consortium for Innovation in Nanotechnology, Energy and Materials.¹⁰⁰⁴

During the compliance period Brazil has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on energy. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 19 December 2014, Canada announced changes to the Aboriginal Renewable Energy Fund to make interim funding available to First Nations and Métis communities for due diligence work required to assess and develop opportunities for participation in the Large Renewable Procurement program. A community energy plan is a comprehensive long-term plan to improve energy efficiency, reduce electricity consumption and assess opportunities for clean energy solutions.¹⁰⁰⁵

On 1 April 2015, Clean Energy Vehicle Program starts for the next three years to invest in charging infrastructure and hydrogen fuelling infrastructure, commercialize fleet purchases of clean energy vehicles, and research and outreach on clean energy transportation technology.¹⁰⁰⁶

During the compliance period Canada has taken actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

¹⁰⁰² Brasil Terá 218 Usinas Eólicas Financiadas Pelo PAC até 2017, Portal Brasil 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/03/brasil-tera-218-usinas-eolicas-financiadas-pelo-pac-ate-2017>

¹⁰⁰³ Governo Busca Formas de Recompensar Quem Fornecer Excedente de Energia, Portal Brasil 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/03/governo-busca-formas-de-recompensar-quem-fornecer-excedente-de-energia>

¹⁰⁰⁴ Brasil e EUA Lançam Programa em Nanotecnologia para Energia Renovável, Brazilian Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Inovação 13 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. http://www.mcti.gov.br/noticias/-/asset_publisher/lqV53KMvD5rY/content/brasil-e-eua-lancam-programa-em-nanotecnologia-para-energia-renovavel

¹⁰⁰⁵ Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.aboriginalenergy.ca/>

¹⁰⁰⁶ Clean Energy Vehicle for BC (CEVforBC™). Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <https://www.cevforbc.ca/clean-energy-vehicle-program>

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on energy. It has taken actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies.

On 4 December 2014, the National Development and Reform Commission of China announced plans to develop offshore nuclear power projects, that all will comply with the highest international security standards.¹⁰⁰⁷

On 16 December 2014, Guangxi's first nuclear power send-out electric transmission line, a 500 KV line with two circuits from Fangchenggang Nuclear Power Plant to Haigang Transformer Substation in Qinhuangdao, was put into operation. The transmission line will greatly enhance the current capacity and strengthen the power grid structure to provide a continuous power supply.¹⁰⁰⁸

On 26 December 2014, Zhebei-Fuzhou 1000 KV Ultra-High Voltage AC Power Transmission Project was officially brought into operation. Zhebei-Fuzhou project is the third ultra-high voltage AC power transmission project invested and constructed by State Grid Corporation. It is an important component of the main grid of ultra-high voltage AC power transmission in East China.¹⁰⁰⁹

On 12 January 2015, the Chinese-built 338-megawatt Russei Chrum Krom River hydropower dam in Cambodia Koh Kong province started operation after Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen cut the ribbon to inaugurate it.¹⁰¹⁰

On 21 January 2015, the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council announced that HydroChina Corporation will provide the engineering, procurement and construction services for a 104-megawatt wind scheme in Argentina's La Rioja province.¹⁰¹¹

On 5 February 2015, China's National Development and Reform Commission said that ministers of China and Argentina signed a deal to build a pressurized water reactor nuclear power plant in Argentina.¹⁰¹²

On 4 March 2015, China authorities said that China will encourage clean industrial production in 2015 by promoting green technology and more economic use of resources to protect the environment. The central government will launch a program that aims to reduce pollution, cleanse

¹⁰⁰⁷ China plans to develop offshore nuclear power projects, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2014/12/05/content_281475019751054.htm

¹⁰⁰⁸ Guangxi's first nuclear power send-out transmission line put into operation, Department of Climate Change in China 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=50415&Tid=96>

¹⁰⁰⁹ Big Clean Energy Channel Opened between Zhejiang and Fujian, Zhejiang Provincial Government 26 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.zj.gov.cn/art/2014/12/30/art_5798_1470211.html

¹⁰¹⁰ Chinese-built 338 MW hydropower dam in Cambodia starts operation, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 12 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/news/international_exchanges/2015/01/13/content_281475038640893.htm

¹⁰¹¹ China to take on wind energy project in Argentina, the Beijing Government 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.ebeijing.gov.cn/BeijingInformation/BeijingNewsUpdate/t1380188.htm>

¹⁰¹² China, Argentina to jointly build nuclear power plant in Argentina, Department of Climate Change in China 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=50952&Tid=103>

industries and prompt sustainable development this year. Companies will destroy four million fewer tonnes of coal by the end of 2015 after the ministry helps them with technological upgrades.¹⁰¹³

On 4 March 2015, members of the China National Committee from Hunan signed a proposal to restart Taohuajiang Nuclear Power Plant. According to the proposal a nuclear power plant with the capacity of one million kilowatts can reduce carbon dioxide emissions by over six million tons, and cut the emission of sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide and discharge of mercury and other heavy metal pollutants. Nuclear power development is a way to solve Hunan energy problems for its economic and social advance.¹⁰¹⁴

On 18 March 2015, China Ministry of Industry and Information Technology stated in the guideline: “China will create a favorable environment to foster quicker growth in the new energy vehicle sector through intense government-led promotion.” To encourage the production and purchase of new energy vehicles, the guideline set the target of 200,000 units of new energy buses and 100,000 new energy taxis and city logistics delivery vehicles by 2020. China will continue to promote the construction of charging facilities for new energy vehicles in cities and implement tax exemptions and subsidies for car purchases.¹⁰¹⁵

On 19 March 2015, Charge d’Affaires at the Chinese Embassy Zhou Youbin announced that the Chinese Hanergy Group invested USD1 billion to construct a 400-megawatt solar power plant to help boost Ghana’s energy needs.¹⁰¹⁶

During the compliance period China has taken actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on energy. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 15 January 2015, the French government adopted two agreements for future investments. They cover five strategic themes of action: renewable energy, energy and energy efficiency, sustainable building, circular economy, water and biodiversity.¹⁰¹⁷

On April 2015, Ségolène Royal, Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, and Emmanuel Macron, Minister of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs, adopted the agreement on

¹⁰¹³ China promotes greener industry, Department of Climate Change in China 4 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=51236&TId=96%22%20title=%22China%20promotes%20greener%20industry>

¹⁰¹⁴ Restart Building of Taohuajiang Nuclear Power Plant Proposed, Hunan Provincial People's Government 4 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.enghunan.gov.cn/wwwHome/201503/t20150305_1217367.htm

¹⁰¹⁵ China to boost new energy vehicles, Department of Climate Change in China 18 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=51535&TId=96>

¹⁰¹⁶ China to help Ghana construct \$1b solar plant, Department of Climate Change in China 19 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

[http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=51585&TId=103%22%20title=%22China%20to%20help%20Ghana%20construct%20\\$1b%20solar%20plant](http://en.ccchina.gov.cn/Detail.aspx?newsId=51585&TId=103%22%20title=%22China%20to%20help%20Ghana%20construct%20$1b%20solar%20plant)

¹⁰¹⁷ Deux conventions pour soutenir les programmes d’investissements d’avenir. Date of Access: 22 May 2015.

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Deux-conventions-pour-soutenir-les.html>

energy efficiency. Companies and governments are committed to promote energy transition to green growth.¹⁰¹⁸ The objectives of the contract are to enhance innovation, competitiveness and new skills.

On 1 April 2015, Royal established new environmental bonus of EUR10,000 for electric vehicles. This action will boost innovations in this area.¹⁰¹⁹

During the compliance period France has taken actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies.

On 3 December 2014, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety signed an agreement with business associations on the nationwide introduction of energy-efficiency networks.¹⁰²⁰ The core idea of the Energy Efficiency concept lies in increasing production rates whereas reducing energy consumption. Results from a network project had shown that the participating companies make significantly better improvements in their energy efficiency after three to four years than the average for their sector. They cut their greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 1,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and they boost their energy productivity twice as quickly as the average for the sector.

On 16 January 2015, the Energy Efficiency Export Initiative support module targeted at innovative technology solutions for energy-efficient buildings established by the German government under the overall control of the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy with the slogan “Energy Efficiency — Made in Germany” took effect.¹⁰²¹ Since then the ministry has supported the presentation of innovative German flagship projects for energy-efficient solutions in building abroad.

Germany has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 20 November 2014, the German government hosted the international Pledging Conference of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Berlin. The outcome was the agreement on the initial financing of USD9.3 billion, a substantial contribution to climate action in developing countries.¹⁰²² The goal of the GCF is to support developing countries — in particular the poor and vulnerable — on their road to low-emission, climate-resilient development. At the Petersburg Climate Dialogue in July,

¹⁰¹⁸ Ségolène Royal et Emmanuel Macron réunissent le comité stratégique de filière éco-industries et valident le contrat de filière sur l'efficacité énergétique. Date of Access: 22 May 2015. http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Segolene-Royal-et-Emmanuel-Macron,43006.html?var_mode=calcul

¹⁰¹⁹ Voitures électriques : des ventes en forte hausse grâce au nouveau bonus écologique de 10 000 € Date of Access: 22 May 2015. <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Voitures-electriques-des-ventes-en,43350.html>

¹⁰²⁰ Bundesregierung Und Verbände Der Wirtschaft Bringen Initiative Energieeffizienz-Netzwerke Auf Den Weg, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=672894.html>.

¹⁰²¹ Neues Fördermodul Gestartet: Exportinitiative Präsentiert Deutsche Leuchtturmprojekte Für Energieeffizienz Im Ausland, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=679694.html>.

¹⁰²² Grüner Klimafonds Macht Mut Für Weltweites Klimaabkommen, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/20141120-2>.

Chancellor Angela Merkel already announced a German contribution of 750 million euros making Germany the first donor country to the GCF.

On 28 January 2015, an ordinance was adopted that creates the legal basis for pilot auctions of ground-mounted photovoltaic installations — energy equipment based on solar power.¹⁰²³ The expansion targets for renewable energies are reached in a predictable and cost-efficient way based on a competition-based procedure of auctions. The first auction was launched on 24 February.¹⁰²⁴

On 3 February 2015, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy announced a new funding program for grid operating power systems.¹⁰²⁵ The program is aimed at supporting the development and piloting of grid systems and initiating them in a number of pilot regions. The ministry planned to provide up to EUR80 million for at least two large showcase regions. The term “smart grid” describes the communicative connection of actors in the energy supply system to the power supply grid.¹⁰²⁶ Smart grids provide system integrity to feed-in electricity from up to 100% renewable energy.

On 9 February 2015, the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy published “Key Principles for the Package of Ordinances Governing Smart Grids.” In line with the Coalition Agreement, this document set out binding rules for the future use of smart meters.¹⁰²⁷ Smart measurement systems involve meters that can communicate, measure and visualize power consumption and have other functions for energy management by integration with power consumers and generators.¹⁰²⁸ Their primary function is to enable more renewable energy to be integrated into the market.

On 10 February 2015, the final investment decision for the NordLink submarine cable between Norway and Germany was taken. It will enable the exchange of electricity generated from renewable energy sources. “This is an important step towards efficient trade and more security of supply for Norway and for Germany,” said Rainer Baake, State Secretary at Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.¹⁰²⁹

During the compliance period Germany has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

¹⁰²³ Gabriel: Erste Ausschreibungsrunde Photovoltaik-Freiflächenanlagen Kann Im Februar 2015 Starten, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Press/press-releases,did=688792.html>.

¹⁰²⁴ Wettbewerb Statt Feste Fördersätze: Bundesnetzagentur Startet Photovoltaik-Freiflächenausschreibungen, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Themen/energie,did=692236.html>.

¹⁰²⁵ Gabriel Startet Wettbewerb Für Schaufenster Zur Intelligenten Energieversorgung Der Zukunft, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 3 Februar 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=688488.html>.

¹⁰²⁶ Intelligente Netze Und Intelligente Zähler, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Topics/Energy/Grids-and-grid-expansion/smart-grids,did=667688.html>.

¹⁰²⁷ Staatssekretär Baake: Smart Meter Wesentlicher Baustein Für Energiewende Und Energieeffizienz, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 9 Februar 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=688488.html>.

¹⁰²⁸ Intelligente Netze Und Intelligente Zähler, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/EN/Topics/Energy/Grids-and-grid-expansion/smart-grids,did=667690.html>.

¹⁰²⁹ Staatssekretär Baake Reist Zu Energiepolitischen Gesprächen nach Oslo, Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmwi.de/DE/Presse/pressemitteilungen,did=690986.html>.

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 8 January 2015, Arun K. Tripathy, Energy Director at the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, presented the financial problems of solar rooftop projects to a meeting of officials from nationalized public sector and private sector banks, international financial institutions and other government agencies and invited them to take part in the New Solar Entrepreneurship scheme. It was decided to create a workgroup on the issue of financing this project, the main target of which is 40,000 megawatt peak grid-connected rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.¹⁰³⁰

On 26 January 2015, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy invited entrepreneurs to take part in “Grid Connected Rooftop and Small Solar Power Plants Programme.” The invitation lists the incentives for entrepreneurs to adopt these technologies, such as 15% subsidy on the capital cost of the system and the bank interest subsidy.¹⁰³¹

In March 2015, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy published guidelines for the selection of 3,000 megawatt grid — “Connected Solar PV Power Projects under Batch-II ‘State Specific Bundling Scheme’.” The document explains what the national solar mission is — declaring that India has a goal of being a global leader in solar energy by 2022, gradually increasing its solar power capacity.¹⁰³²

On 5 March 2015, Tripathi expressing the sanctions of the President of India for implementing a project to set up of 15,000 megawatts of grid-connected solar PV power plants through NTPC Ltd. noticed that developers will be from both public and private sectors.¹⁰³³

On 30 March 2015, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy published physical progress in 2014-2015, where the targets of use of renewable energy sources are compared with achievements and cumulative achievements are calculated. India has implemented the plan for neither of sectors. However, progress is observed for all the types of energy except biomass power and gasification. Wind, small hydro and solar power have the largest capacity.¹⁰³⁴

During the compliance period India has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

¹⁰³⁰ Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Division) Office Memorandum, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/MoM-grid-connected-solar-rooftop-09022015.pdf>.

¹⁰³¹ Invitation of Application for Empanelment of Channel Partners/New Entrepreneurs, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India 26 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015 <http://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/Notification-Regarding-Extension-of-date-for-Guidelines-for-Empanelment-of-Channel-Partner-for-GCRTE.pdf>.

¹⁰³² Guidelines for Selection of 3000 MW Grid – Connected Solar PV Power Projects under Batch-II “State Specific Bundling Scheme”, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015 <http://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/Final-draft-3000-MW-Tranche-1-Draft-Guidelines-State-Specific-Bundling-Scheme.pdf>.

¹⁰³³ Implementation of Project for Setting up of 15,000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Plants through NTPC Ltd., Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015 <http://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/Scheme-for-15000-MW-through-NTPC-NVVN.pdf>.

¹⁰³⁴ Programme/ Scheme wise Physical Progress in 2014-15, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015 <http://mnre.gov.in/mission-and-vision-2/achievements/>.

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 27 November 2014, the Indonesian state-owned electricity company PLN and the government announced their plans to build hydro power plants with a capacity of 6,300 megawatts within the next ten years.¹⁰³⁵

On 16 March 2015, the Indonesian government increased the amount of mandatory biofuel for 2015 to 15%. This measure will help reduce dependency on imported diesel fuel. It is also in line with the National Energy Policy, which sets the target of increasing the share of renewable energy in national energy mix to 23% by 2025.¹⁰³⁶

On 9 April 2015, Sudirman Said, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, announced the allocation of IDR115 billion for renewable energy infrastructure development in Sumba Island. This island is to become an example of efficient renewable energy utilization and a source of experience to be further used in other regions of the country.¹⁰³⁷

During the compliance period Indonesia has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies.

On 24-25 November 2015, the Italian Ministry of Environment organized a workshop in Naples devoted to promoting renewable sources of energy. Among the issues discussed were policy mechanisms and goals of renewable sources development, burden sharing, and synergies between renewables and regional economies.¹⁰³⁸

On 24 April 2015, Federica Guidi, Italian Minister of Economic Development, signed a decree allocating EUR120 million for the needs of the *Energie Rinnovabili e Risparmio Energetico* program.

¹⁰³⁵ 6.300 MW PLTA in the Next Ten Years, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia 27 November 2014. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.esdm.go.id/index-en/83-energy/7016-6300-mw-plta-in-the-next-ten-years.html>.

¹⁰³⁶ Government Increases Biofuel Mandatory, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia 16 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.esdm.go.id/index-en/83-energy/7182-government-increases-biofuel-mandatory.html>.

¹⁰³⁷ Sumba Island is the Sample for Renewable Energy Utilization, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia 8 April 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.esdm.go.id/index-en/83-energy/7211-sumba-island-is-the-sample-for-renewable-energy-utilization.html>.

¹⁰³⁸ Fonti Rinnovabili: accesso ai fondi e opportunità per imprese, professionisti e amministrazioni pubbliche, Italian Ministry of the Environment 25 November 2014. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.minambiente.it/notizie/fonti-rinnovabili-accesso-ai-fondi-e-opportunita-imprese-professionisti-e-amministrazioni>.

These funds will help the companies with productive facilities in the regions of Calabria, Campania, Apulia and Sicily which want to invest in energy effective projects.¹⁰³⁹

During the compliance period Italy has acted to promote innovative energy technologies. However, no actions were taken to promote clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on energy.

On 22 January 2015, the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy partially revised the ordinance for enforcing the act on special measures concerning procurement of electricity from renewable energy sources by electricity utilities, including development of an innovative system to assess a new output-control scheme.¹⁰⁴⁰

On 18 December 2014, the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy announced that a report titled “Revision of the Current Operation System for the Feed-in Tariff Scheme toward the Maximum Introduction of Renewable Energy” has been compiled.¹⁰⁴¹ The report concerns the shift from the current system to a system with a new output-control scheme and revision of the current operation system.

On 24 March 2015, the cabinet decided to approve the Bill for the Act for the Improvement of the energy saving performance of buildings.¹⁰⁴² It stipulates innovative measures to establish new system for authorizing a plan submitted by businesses to improve energy saving performance.

During the compliance period Japan has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 25 November 2015, a program to build environmentally friendly “zero energy housing” test beds was launched in Seoul. The project worth KRW 44.2 billion aims to build 121 housing units in three seven-storied apartment buildings and a number of townhouses. The test bed will employ

¹⁰³⁹ Efficienza Energetica 2015: 120 milioni per sostenibilità ed efficienza, Italian ministry of Economic Development 24 April 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it/index.php/it/incentivi/energia/bando-efficienza-energetica>.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Promulgation of the Ministerial Ordinance and the Related Public Notices for Partially Revising the Ordinance for Enforcement of the Act on Special Measures Concerning Procurement of Electricity from Renewable Energy Sources by Electricity Utilities. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0122_02.html

¹⁰⁴¹ ANRE Compiled a Report Titled “Revision of the Current Operation System of the Feed-in Tariff Scheme toward the Maximum Introduction of Renewable Energy”. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2014/1218_01.html

¹⁰⁴² Cabinet Decision on the Bill for the Act for the Improvement of the Energy Saving Performance of Buildings. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2015/0324_03.html

technologies that avoid using fossil fuels for heating, air conditioning, warm water, lighting, and ventilation.¹⁰⁴³

On 19 March 2015, the Korea International Cooperation Agency launched a three-week program on Sustainable Energy Development and Policy involving 15 government officials responsible for energy management and policy from Jordan. The program's objectives include assistance in understanding various activities and policies on sustainable energy including renewable energy and green energy; learning of recent technological developments and policy directions in energy; exchanging views on urgent energy issues in Korea and Jordan; and strengthening future cooperation in sustainable energy development between the two countries.¹⁰⁴⁴

During the compliance period Korea has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on clean energy technologies.

In December 2014, the Mexican Secretariat of Energy (SENER), Electric Power Saving Trust Fund (Fideicomiso para el Ahorro de Energía Eléctrica [FIDE]) and DICONSA (a state-owned company) distributed 38.9 million of energy-efficient lamps in the rural communities. The rural citizens could exchange their lamps for energy-efficient lamps in 30 stores, 274 rural stores and more than 27,000 benches benefiting 7.7 million families.¹⁰⁴⁵

Starting from 1 January 2015, 40 watt light bulbs are not sold in Mexico. This measure intends to decrease energy consumption in the country as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 500,000 tons of carbon dioxide per year. In addition SENER, FIDE and DICONSA will launch a program for fluorescent lamps distribution in four Mexican states.¹⁰⁴⁶

In January 2015, the Mexican National Commission for the Efficient Use of Energy (Conuee) in cooperation with Super-efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD) Initiative launched software to evaluate street lightings. The program helps to estimate quality of light and energy consumption of street lightings by use of photometric analysis.¹⁰⁴⁷

On 20 January 2015, Juan José Guerra Abud, Mexican Minister for Environment and Natural Resources, met with Duncan Taylor, United Kingdom Ambassador to Mexico, to discuss

¹⁰⁴³ Zero energy housing eliminating any need for a heating bill will be built in the Nowon district, South Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport 28 May 2015. Date of Access: 25 November 2014. <http://goo.gl/Q2sEzQ>.

¹⁰⁴⁴ Sustainable Energy Development and Policy (Jordan). Korea International Cooperation Agency 17 March 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1319418_3545.html.

¹⁰⁴⁵ Apoya Diconsa el Programa de Ahorro de Energía. 31 December 2014. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/es/SEDESOL/Comunicados/_rid/57/2732/apoya-diconsa-el-programa-de-ahorro-de-energia.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Ya no se venderán lámparas incandescentes de 40 watts o más. 20 January 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/ya-no-se-venderan-lamparas-incandescentes-de-40-watts-o-mas/>.

¹⁰⁴⁷ Conuee promueve software para evaluación de luminarias de alumbrado public. 16 January 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.iluminet.com/software-alumbrado-conuee-iluminacion/>.

strengthening bilateral cooperation in environment and clean energy spheres. The meeting was also attended by senior Mexican and UK energy and climate officials.¹⁰⁴⁸

During the compliance period Mexico has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 9 December 2014, the government of the Russian Federation approved the plan of the implementation of the “Energy Efficiency and Energy Development” program prepared by the Ministry of Energy. It provides an increase in government spending by 6,844 billion rubles in 2014-2016. Implementation of the program, according to the government, will result in reduction of energy intensity of the Russian economy by 12.7% by 2020 (compared to 2007). The program is also aimed at upgrading of the Russian electric energy production production capacities through the implementation of both domestic and foreign innovative energy technologies.¹⁰⁴⁹ The sub-program 6 of the plan approved by the government provides for the development of renewable sources of energy, including through direct government subsidies on renewable energy sources’ connection to power grids.¹⁰⁵⁰

On 23 January 2015, the government approved a decree on stimulating renewable energy sources in retail electricity markets. This document will allow to improve the mechanisms supporting generating companies employing renewable energy technologies, through enhanced modalities of long-term tariff regulation of such companies. These mechanisms apply to green energy facilities, utilizing biogas, biomass, landfill gas and other renewable energy sources.¹⁰⁵¹

During the compliance period Russia has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 5 May 2015, a memorandum of joint cooperation was signed between King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy (K.A.CARE) and Al Mediana Al Munawara Municipality. K.A.CARE is a state entity established by royal decree in 2010 to build “a sustainable future for Saudi Arabia by developing a substantial alternative energy capacity fully supported by world-class local

¹⁰⁴⁸ México y Reino Unido refrendan compromiso de colaboración ambiental. 20 January 2015. Date of access: 23 February 2015. <http://saladeprensa.semarnat.gob.mx/index.php/noticias/2006-mexico-y-reino-unido-refrendan-compromiso-de-colaboracion-ambiental>,

¹⁰⁴⁹ On approval of the new version of the “Energy efficiency and energy development” state program, Government of Russia 15 April 2014. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/11951>.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Government of Russia Decree No. 2445-p, Government of Russia 3 December 2014. Date of access: 11 June 2015.. <http://government.ru/media/files/aRtaG8E5Rys.pdf>.

¹⁰⁵¹ On stimulating renewable energy sources in retail electricity markets, Government of Russia 23 January 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/16633/>.

industries.”¹⁰⁵² The memorandum signed by the two parties provides for carrying out a joint study to develop renewable energy system in Al Madinah Al Monawara area, measuring renewable energy resources potential, developing solutions and renewable energy stations, promoting education and technical training, as well as developing industries and services relevant to renewable energy in the area. The parties will focus on cooperation in developing solar and wind sources of energy.¹⁰⁵³

During the compliance period Saudi Arabia has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment on energy.

No evidence of actions taken by South Africa to promote innovative energy technologies was registered during the compliance period. Thus it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 30 January 2015, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended to the opening ceremony of Geycek Wind Power Plant. The President highlighted Turkey’s commitment to the renewable energy and informed that the government will introduce more encouraging incentives for investments in renewable energy.¹⁰⁵⁴ Currently implemented initiatives of this kind include interest-free loans for renewable energy production and for projects to improve energy efficiency and reduce environmental impact.¹⁰⁵⁵

On 30 March 2015, a Letter of Intent on Cooperation in the Sphere of Energy between the Ministry of Infrastructure of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Turkey was signed. The document provides for stronger cooperation between Turkey and Slovenia in the energy sphere, including natural gas and renewable energy.¹⁰⁵⁶

In 2014, the Turkish ministry of energy and natural resources informed that photovoltaic plant licenses will be given to 600 megawatts of installed capacity as a result of the technical evaluations of

¹⁰⁵² The Establishing Order, K.A.CARE. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. http://www.kacare.gov.sa/en/?page_id=71.

¹⁰⁵³ King Abdullah City for Atomic and Renewable Energy and Al Mediana Al Munawara Municipality sign a memorandum of joint cooperation, K.A.CARE 6 May 2015. Date of Access: 21 May 2015. <http://www.kacare.gov.sa/en/?p=1695>.

¹⁰⁵⁴ We are determined to carry Turkey to its 2023 goals with an understanding of balanced and sustainable development, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <https://www.tccb.gov.tr/news/397/92129/we-are-determined-to-carry-turkey-to-its-2023-goals-with-an-understanding-of-balanced-and-sustainabl.html>.

¹⁰⁵⁵ World Investment Report 2014, UNCTAD 30 April 2014. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/wir2014_en.pdf.

¹⁰⁵⁶ The relations between Turkey and Slovenia will grow stronger in all spheres, Presidency of the Republic of Turkey 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.tccb.gov.tr/content.asp?caid=397&cid=92754&categoryName=news&header=the-relations-between-turkey-and-slovenia-will-grow-stronger-in-all-spheres>.

the applications to the Energy Market Regulatory Authority. This capacity will be increased in the coming years to reach a target of 3,000 megawatts (MW) installed capacity of licensed photovoltaic plants by 2023.¹⁰⁵⁷ The ministry also plans to double the capacity of geothermal power plants and develop other innovative energy facilities.¹⁰⁵⁸ According to the World Bank, “Turkey is aiming for a share of electricity generated from renewable sources of at least 30% of total installed capacity by 2023, mainly through utilizing technically and economically viable hydro potential and 20,000 MW of wind-installed capacity.” Ministry of energy and natural resources of Turkey currently works in partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and other institutions to implement a project worth USD475 million aimed at strengthening the transmission system and facilitating large-scale renewable energy generation, including the installation of 600 MW of wind power plants.¹⁰⁵⁹

During the compliance period Turkey has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to promote innovative energy technologies. It has taken actions to promote innovative clean energy technologies.

On 25 February 2015, 40 new technologies in the energy sector funded through the first round of Innovate UK's Energy Catalyst program were announced. The program is designed to help reduce carbon emissions, increase security of energy supply and cut its cost. The government will provide GBP24.5 million of funding for the winning projects.¹⁰⁶⁰

The Department for International Development is currently engaged in the project in Bangladesh aimed at climate change mitigation and providing access to clean energy for the rural poor in off-grid areas of the country. The total project financing by end of March 2017 will amount to GBP20 million.¹⁰⁶¹

During the compliance period the UK has taken actions to promote innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on energy. It has implemented policies to encourage the development of innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies.

¹⁰⁵⁷ Solar, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey 2014. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.enerji.gov.tr/en-US/Pages/Solar>.

¹⁰⁵⁸ Geothermal, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey 2014. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.enerji.gov.tr/en-US/Pages/Geothermal>.

¹⁰⁵⁹ World Bank Group – Turkey Partnership: Country Program Snapshot, World Bank April 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/document/eca/Turkey-Snapshot.pdf>.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Government invests £25 million in game-changing green technologies, UK Government 25 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-invests-25-million-in-game-changing-green-technologies>.

¹⁰⁶¹ Providing Clean Energy to the Rural Poor of Bangladesh, Development Tracker 27 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202976/>.

On 10 December 2014, the US Department of Energy provided USD12.5 billion in loan guarantees to promote innovative nuclear energy projects. The whole loan guarantee package to support innovative energy projects has reached USD40 billion, including projects in such areas as fossil energy, renewable energy, advanced technology vehicle manufacturing.¹⁰⁶²

On 16 December 2014, the Department of Energy's Advanced Research Projects Agency — Energy (ARPA-E) awarded USD60 million for 22 innovative projects aimed at detecting and measuring methane emissions and developing thermal management systems that reduce the energy needed to heat and cool buildings.¹⁰⁶³

On 31 December 2014, the Department of Energy finalized the new standards for general service fluorescent lamps and automatic commercial ice makers, which will contribute to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and reduce electricity bills for American households.¹⁰⁶⁴

On 7 January 2015, ARPA-E made its third USD125 million open funding opportunity announcement to promote disruptive new energy technologies which are beyond the focus of existing ARPA-E programs.¹⁰⁶⁵

On 22 January 2015, the Department of Energy awarded more than USD55 million to support clean vehicle technologies, which will improve energy efficiency and reduce petroleum consumption. The department has also announced up to USD35 million to support hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.¹⁰⁶⁶

On 29 January 2015, the Department of Energy pledged more than USD59 million to promote solar innovation. USD45 million will be spent on solar technologies commercialization and more than USD14 million will be awarded to help communities create solar deployment plans.¹⁰⁶⁷

On 30 January 2015, the Department of Energy promised to renew funding for the Consortium for the Advanced Simulation of Light Water Reactors (CASL), which is engaged with virtual nuclear reactor analyzing. CASL will be awarded up to USD121.5 million in the next five years, subject to

¹⁰⁶² Department of Energy Issues Final \$12.5 Billion Advanced Nuclear Energy Loan Guarantee Solicitation, U.S. Department of Energy 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-issues-final-125-billion-advanced-nuclear-energy-loan-guarantee>.

¹⁰⁶³ Department of Energy Announces 22 New Projects to Enable Emissions Reductions and Improve Energy Efficiency, U.S. Department of Energy 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-22-new-projects-enable-emissions-reductions-and-improve-energy>.

¹⁰⁶⁴ New Energy Efficiency Standards to Help Americans Save Money by Saving Energy, Cut Carbon Pollution, U.S. Department of Energy 31 December 2014. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/new-energy-efficiency-standards-help-americans-save-money-saving-energy-cut-carbon>.

¹⁰⁶⁵ Secretary Moniz Announces \$125 Million OPEN Solicitation for Transformational Energy Projects, U.S. Department of Energy 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/secretary-moniz-announces-125-million-open-solicitation-transformational-energy-projects>.

¹⁰⁶⁶ U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$55 Million in Grants To Put More Zero-Emission Buses Into Service Across America, U.S. Department of Transportation 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 19 April 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-55-million-grants-put-more-zero-emission-buses>.

¹⁰⁶⁷ Energy Department Announces More Than \$59 Million Investment in Solar, U.S. Department of Energy 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-more-59-million-investment-solar>.

congressional appropriations, to extend its modeling and simulation tools to include new nuclear reactor designs.¹⁰⁶⁸

On 2 February 2015, US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz presented the Department of Energy's USD30 billion fiscal year 2016 budget request, which is 9% higher than fiscal year 2015 budget. The proposed budget comprises USD4.8 million to support energy innovation and USD5.34 billion to promote discovery research across the sciences.¹⁰⁶⁹

On 5 February 2015, the US Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration awarded USD55 million to 10 projects to put innovative, energy-efficient buses on the road. This will help to improve energy efficiency.¹⁰⁷⁰

On 11 February 2015, the Department of Energy launched the Office of Technology Transitions (OTT) to facilitate the commercialization of department's research. OTT will manage the nearly USD20 million Energy Technology Commercialization Fund and closely cooperate with national laboratories and companies to promote the transition of new technologies to the market.¹⁰⁷¹

On 9 April 2015, the Department of Energy pledged USD200 million for a next-generation supercomputer Aurora to the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility and USD10 million for a high-performance computing research and development program DesignForward to the department's Office of Science and National Nuclear Security Administration. The delivery of Aurora is planned for 2018; Aurora will be open to all scientific users. These investments will promote new low-carbon energy technologies.¹⁰⁷²

The United States has also taken steps to encourage the development of innovative energy technologies in cooperation with other countries.

On 4 March 2015, the Department of Energy announced USD12.5 million for a new technical track under the US-China Clean Energy Research Center (CERC) over the next five years. This funding will be matched by USD12.5 million by the CERC partners and by USD25 million by Chinese counterparts for a total of USD50 million. CERC initiatives comprise research, development and deployment of clean vehicles, building energy efficiency, and promoting advanced coal technologies including carbon capture and storage by teams of scientists and engineers from the US and China.¹⁰⁷³

¹⁰⁶⁸ Energy Department Announces Five Year Renewal of Funding for First Energy Innovation Hub, U.S. Department of Energy 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-five-year-renewal-funding-first-energy-innovation-hub>.

¹⁰⁶⁹ Energy Department Presents FY16 Budget Request, U.S. Department of Energy 2 February 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-presents-fy16-budget-request>.

¹⁰⁷⁰ U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$55 Million in Grants To Put More Zero-Emission Buses Into Service Across America, the U.S. Department of Transportation 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 30 April 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-55-million-grants-put-more-zero-emission-buses>.

¹⁰⁷¹ Energy Department Announces New Office of Technology Transitions, U.S. Department of Energy 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-new-office-technology-transitions>.

¹⁰⁷² U.S. Department of Energy Awards \$200 Million for Next- Generation Supercomputer at Argonne National Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy 9 April 2015. Date of Access: 16 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-awards-200-million-next-generation-supercomputer-argonne-national>.

¹⁰⁷³ U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center Issues Solicitation to Address the Energy-Water Nexus, U.S. Department of Energy 4 March 2015. Date of Access: 17 April 2015. <http://energy.gov/articles/us-china-clean-energy-research-center-issues-solicitation-address-energy-water-nexus>.

The United States has taken actions to promote the development of innovative energy technologies, including clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on energy. The EU takes actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies.

On 26 November 2014, the European Commission announced an investment plan to stimulate economic growth and employment in the EU. The plan includes the creation of a new European Fund for Strategic Investments to mobilize at least USD394 billion of additional investment over the next three years (2015-2017) with the focus on renewable energy among other tasks.¹⁰⁷⁴

On 25 February 2015, the European Commission set out Framework Strategy for a Resilient Energy Union with a Forward-Looking Climate Change Policy. The strategy has to provide transition to a low-carbon society ensuring that locally produced energy — including from renewables — can be absorbed easily and efficiently into the grid; promoting EU technological leadership, through developing the next generation of renewables technology.¹⁰⁷⁵

On 5 March 2015, the European Commission opened the call for proposals under the Connecting Europe Facility to increase investments into key trans-European energy infrastructure projects. USD110 million will be made available for energy projects including innovative energy projects. This money will also attract additional financing by private and public investors.¹⁰⁷⁶

On 30 March 2015, the European Commission has approved the creation of a joint venture by Global Infrastructure Management of the US and ACS, Servicios, Comunicaciones y Energía of Spain that will develop, build and operate renewable energy assets.¹⁰⁷⁷

During the compliance period European Union has taken actions to promote innovative including clean energy technologies. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

¹⁰⁷⁴ EU launches Investment Offensive to boost jobs and growth, European Commission 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2128_en.htm

¹⁰⁷⁵ Energy Union: secure, sustainable, competitive, affordable energy for every European, European Commission 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4497_en.htm

¹⁰⁷⁶ Completing the internal energy market: €100 million released to connect European energy networks, European Commission 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4560_en.htm

¹⁰⁷⁷ Mergers: Commission clears joint venture between Global infrastructure Management and ACS in renewable energy sector, European Commission 30 MArch 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-15-4728_en.htm

10. Health: Ebola

“We will work to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds ... balancing between emergency and long-term needs.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico	-1		
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average Score		+0.35	

Background

Commitments to expedite funds in response to emergency and long-term needs is a new addition in this G20 summit and is in a direct response to encouraging broader international efforts in response to the Ebola crisis in Western Africa. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of 28 January 2015 there have been over 22,000 reported Ebola cases and over 8800 deaths in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mali and Nigeria.¹⁰⁷⁸ The global response to the epidemic has now moved to a second phase with WHO's focus shifting away from slowing the transmission of the virus and moving more towards ending the epidemic. As a result, WHO encourages efforts to be less directed towards rapidly building infrastructure, and towards ensuring that capacity is built for case finding, case management, safe burials, and community engagement.¹⁰⁷⁹ Therefore, the G20 members have recognized that current funding commitments to assist in the containment and eradication of the Ebola virus are not sufficient and must become a focus in the 2015 cycle.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Ebola Situation Report. World Health Organization. Date of Access: 01 February 2015.

<http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/ebola-situation-report/situation-reports/ebola-situation-report-28-january-2015>

¹⁰⁷⁹ Ebola Situation Report. World Health Organization. Date of Access: 01 February 2015.

<http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/ebola-situation-report/situation-reports/ebola-situation-report-28-january-2015>

Commitment Features

This commitment calls on G20 members to assist in eradicating the Ebola virus (EBV), outlined by the United Nations as “an unprecedented threat of nature and scope.”¹⁰⁸⁰ At the Brisbane Summit leaders urged the “mobilization of resources to strengthen national, regional and global preparedness,”¹⁰⁸¹ specifically calling on international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund¹⁰⁸² and the World Bank Group to pledge financial aid.

This commitment has two components. The first is to expedite targeted disbursement of funds for emergency response to counter imminent damage done by the virus.¹⁰⁸³ In this case targeted refers to specific goals outlined with measurable outcomes. Expedited in this commitment refers to the rapid transfer of funds from donors at the most cost-effective opportunity for a national government, without putting an undue administrative burden on either the donor or the recipient.¹⁰⁸⁴

The second part of the commitment states G20 leaders will expedite funds to focus on development cooperation in affected areas. Specifically, according to the European Commission, fund disbursement in the long term should be used for strengthening healthcare infrastructure, food security, water and sanitation, and the resilience of vulnerable households.¹⁰⁸⁵ The promotion of long-term development and capacity building strategies falls in line with the goal stated by the Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG) of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), which is to narrow the amount of EBV cases to zero.¹⁰⁸⁶ In this comment, any development initiative on behalf of a G20 member falls under long-term strategy.

Acting to Expedite Disbursement Funds for Emergency Preparedness and Response Mechanisms:

1. Promote national government contingency funding agreements with donors, specifically to enhance support for community-led tracing of EBV-exposed patients in intense transmission areas (Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia).
2. Enhance fiscal and targeted response capacity strategies of national authorities to monitor surveillance and response activities in Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia directed at mitigating the propagation of EBV.

¹⁰⁸⁰ UN General Assembly underlines 'strong commitment' to bolster response to Ebola outbreak, UN News Center (New York) 14 September 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48756#.VM7-iYeyhSU>

¹⁰⁸¹ G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Research Group (Toronto). 15 November 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

¹⁰⁸² IMF Approves \$130 Million for Countries Worst Hit by Ebola, International Monetary Fund (Washington DC) 26 September 2014. Date Accessed: 02 February, 2015.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2014/new092614a.htm>

¹⁰⁸³ Welcoming the G20's Commitment To Stop Ebola and Strengthen Global Health Security, US Department of State Official Blog (Washington DC) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015.

<https://blogs.state.gov/stories/2014/11/15/welcoming-g20s-commitment-stop-ebola-and-strengthen-global-health-security>

¹⁰⁸⁴ Expediting the Transfer of Funds for HIV/AIDS Services, Management Services for Health (Washington DC) 2005. Access Date: 02 February 2015. http://www.msh.org/sites/msh.org/files/funds_transfer_hiv_aids.pdf

¹⁰⁸⁵ EU Ebola response: medium/long term support through development cooperation, European Union (Brussels) 08 December 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-2463_en.htm

¹⁰⁸⁶ UNMEER SRSG Pleads for Regional- Collaboration to Battle Ebola, Daily Observer (Monrovia) 01 August 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015. <http://www.liberianobserver.com/news-development/unmeer-srsg-pleads-regional-collaboration-battle-ebola>

3. Develop new government-funded disbursement projects to the International Monetary Fund/World Bank Group and other international organizations in donor countries.
4. Increased efficiency and speed in the disbursement of funds from donor countries.
5. Increased intergovernmental fund cooperation and distribution among donor countries and institutions.
6. Increased efficiency and speed in the disbursement of funds from donor countries.
7. Develop and implement operational support platforms, through identification, gathering, receiving, allocation and tasking of key strategic resources/assets. Focus on resourcing, prioritizing, and allocating resources in accordance with national response plans.

Acting as problem solvers in the long-term eradication of EBV:

1. Encourage national governments and international organizations to pledge funds to establish static long-term plans,¹⁰⁸⁷ such as education, and food security and provision to eradicate EBV.
2. Promote permanent infections epidemic funds among donor countries to expedite future relief for EBV.
3. Develop analytical frameworks to reform public health infrastructure in affected/high transmission areas and countries.
4. Develop research and development frameworks on behalf of pharmaceutical companies to develop safe, effective and affordable diagnostic tools, vaccines and treatments.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member fails to work to expedite funds to any emergency response plan/mechanism AND fails to expedite funds to support any long-term strategy for the eradication of Ebola virus.
0	G20 member works to expedite funds to an emergency response plan OR expedites funds to a long-term strategy for the eradication of Ebola virus, but not both.
+1	G20 member works to expedite funds to an emergency response plan AND expedites funds to a long-term strategy for the eradication of Ebola virus.

Lead Analyst: Cas Legrand

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitments to expedite funds to an emergency response plan and for a long-term strategy for the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV).

On 12 November 2014, Oxfam International reported that Argentina was one of four countries that had failed to provide any international assistance to deal with the Ebola crisis.¹⁰⁸⁸ Oxfam Executive Director Winnie Byanyima stressed the gravity of G20 countries not fulfilling their commitments: “the window of opportunity to bring the spread of Ebola under control is closing fast ... hiding behind the generosity of others is unacceptable if we are to tackle the immediate emergency and ensure long-term recovery of the region.”¹⁰⁸⁹

¹⁰⁸⁷ Combatting Ebola and Infectious Disease Long-Term, Huffington Post (New York) 11 December 2014. Access Date: 02 February 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/linda-p-fried/combating-ebola-and-infe_b_6310722.html

¹⁰⁸⁸ Almost Half the G20 Countries Have Failed to Deliver in the Global Fight Against Ebola, OXFAM International (New York) 12 November 2014. Access Date: 29 February 2015. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-11-12/ebola-almost-half-g20-countries-have-failed-deliver>

¹⁰⁸⁹ Almost Half the G20 Countries Have Failed to Deliver in the Global Fight Against Ebola, OXFAM International (New York) 12 November 2014. Access Date: 29 February 2015. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-11-12/ebola-almost-half-g20-countries-have-failed-deliver>

Although Argentina has not contributed any aid to date, it has contributed important research that may help predict the end of the Ebola virus. A team of researchers led by Lucas Valdez at the National University of Mar del Plata in Argentina has projected that EBV could be contained as early as May 2015.¹⁰⁹⁰

Argentina has not complied with the commitment to provide an emergency response plan nor a long-term strategy for the eradication of EBV. It has also failed to indicate any future effort to mobilize any funds. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Jiyeon Han

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to assist in the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV) through its pledge to help expedite funds to an emergency response plan.

On 22 November 2014, at the United Nations Security Council Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop reiterated the international community's concern and commitment to helping eradicate the spread of EBV in the West African nations of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.¹⁰⁹¹

The Australian government has contributed USD42 million to help with EBV efforts globally. USD20 million has been contracted to a private company Aspen Medical to help run an Ebola treatment centre in Sierra Leone.¹⁰⁹² In addition, Australia is among the top 25 donors to the WHO Ebola response having allocated USD4 million to the EBV efforts.¹⁰⁹³

However, the Australian government has come under criticism for slow expedition of funds to critical areas and lack of transparency on when and how emergency funds are disbursed.¹⁰⁹⁴

While Australia has taken measurable actions to help expedite funds for an emergency response plan, it has not committed to funding a long-term strategy for eradicating EBV. Therefore, Australia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Eddie Kawooya

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to assist in the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV), through its expedition of funds to an emergency response plan and a long-term strategy for the eradication of EBV.

¹⁰⁹⁰ Ebola Epidemic Should End in May, Say Disease Modellers, MIT Technology Review (Cambridge) 12 February 2015. Access Date: 29 February 2015. <http://www.technologyreview.com/view/535151/ebola-epidemic-should-end-in-may-say-disease-modelers/>

¹⁰⁹¹ Julie Bishop tells UN Ebola threatens global security, The Sydney Morning Herald (Sydney) 22 November 2014. Date Accessed: 25 February 2015. <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/julie-bishop-tells-un-ebola-threatens-global-security-20141122-11rs87.html>

¹⁰⁹² Ebola outbreak: Australia's treatment centre in Sierra Leone to open by early December, Aspen Medical says, ABC News (Darwin) 21 November 2014. Date Accessed: 25 February 2015. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-21/australia-sierra-leone-ebola-centre-to-open-early-december/5910572>

¹⁰⁹³ WHO Ebola Funding Needs for January – June 2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) 1 January 2015. Date Accessed: 23 February 2015. <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/get-involved/funding>

¹⁰⁹⁴ Only 38% of Australia's Ebola funds have made it to Africa, group claims, The Guardian UK Edition (London) 21 November 2014. Date Accessed: 23 February 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/21/only-38-of-australias-ebola-funds-have-made-it-to-africa-group-claims>

On 4 December 2014, the Brazilian government pledged more than USD9.76 million to help with the international efforts to contain the spread of EBV.¹⁰⁹⁵ Brazil has donated USD2.54 million for supporting construction of basic services while the World Food Programme has been granted with USD1.76 million for food provisions. The World Health Organization has received USD5 million to help provide care to afflicted populations in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.¹⁰⁹⁶ In addition to emergency funds, Brazil has facilitated in the disbursement of supply kits to Ebola stricken regions in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia to help control the spread of EBV.¹⁰⁹⁷

On 6 December 2014, Brazil hosted a meeting of BRICS health ministers in Rio de Janeiro where they signed an agreement to establish a comprehensive strategy to tackle epidemics including tuberculosis and Ebola.¹⁰⁹⁸ As part of their long-term strategy to eradicate several health challenges, the BRICS has commissioned a working group to help deal with the spread of EBV. The joint strategy will be implemented as early as March 2015.

Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of +1 for its commitment to the expedition of emergency funds and a long-term strategy for eradicating EBV.

Analyst: Eddie Kavooya

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitments to expedite funds to an emergency response plan and for a long-term strategy for the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV).

As of March 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirms that there have been no cases of EBV in Canada.¹⁰⁹⁹ In spite of this, the Canadian government has taken numerous steps to contribute to the eradication of the virus, both within Canada and abroad.

To assist Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and other West African countries, the government of Canada had provided a total of CAD5 million. Additionally another CAD5.55 million was given to WHO by Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) towards the immediate health and security field response.¹¹⁰⁰ Canada has also provided laboratory and technical services totalling CAD200,000, which was dispersed from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to WHO.

¹⁰⁹⁵ Brazil donates \$9.76 million to help fight Ebola, EBC Agencia Brasil (Brasilia) 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/internacional/noticia/2014-12/brazil-donates-976-million-help-fight-ebola>

¹⁰⁹⁶ WHO Ebola Funding Needs for January – June 2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://apps.who.int/ebola/en/get-involved/funding>

¹⁰⁹⁷ Ebola Virus Outbreak – West Africa, Financial Tracking Service, UN Office of Humanitarian Affairs (New York) April 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R10_E16506_asof___1503010301.pdf

¹⁰⁹⁸ BRICS to jointly fight tuberculosis, Ebola, The BRICS Post (London) 6 December 2014. Date of Access: February 26 2015. <http://thebricspost.com/brics-to-jointly-fight-tuberculosis-ebola/#.VPNU1PF9XZ>

¹⁰⁹⁹ Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care. Emergency Management - Ebola Virus Disease. 18 March 2015. Access date: 27 March 2015. <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/emu/ebola/>.

¹¹⁰⁰ Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada. Canada's response to the Ebola outbreak in the West Africa region. 8 August 2014. Access date: 27 March 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiques/2014/08/08b_bg.aspx?lang=eng.

This assisted in the coordination of technical support from the international community, in addition to on-the-ground laboratory diagnostic services.¹¹⁰¹

Additionally, DFATD also provide CAD2.7 million for physician support and containment to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which supported physician, containment and programs to prevent the spread of EBV to additional communities.¹¹⁰²

DFATD has also dispersed CAD160,000 to various Red Cross agencies, including Canada, Guinea and Liberia and Sierra Leone.¹¹⁰³ Red Cross has a broad range of activities, including providing medical care, removing dead bodies to prevent further infection, community education about transmission and prevention, psychosocial counselling for families, placement of specialist aid workers and assistance to other agencies.

PHAC has developed the ESV-EBOV vaccine, which is shown to have promising results in clinical trials. As of March 2015, WHO, MSF and the Norwegian Institute of Public Health began testing this vaccine in populations in Guinea.¹¹⁰⁴

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to provide an emergency response plan and a long-term strategy for the eradication, prevention and capacity building, along with its development of new medical treatment for EBV. Thus, Canada is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Carol Ramchuram

China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to assist in the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV). China has contributed funds to develop long-term strategies and has expedited significant funds to emergency response strategies.

As of 6 February 2015, China has trained more than 10,000 local staff to treat Ebola: 5,000 medical personnel in Sierra Leone, nearly 2,000 in Liberia, over 1,400 in Guinea, and nearly another 2,000 in six other countries in West Africa. China has also provided US\$121 million in cash and supplies.¹¹⁰⁵

The Chinese military medical team sent another 232 medical workers to Sierra Leone and Liberia to fight against Ebola. The workers will help treat patients and train local medical workers in fighting Ebola.¹¹⁰⁶

¹¹⁰¹ Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada. Canada's response to the Ebola outbreak in the West Africa region. 8 August 2014. Access date: 27 March 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiqués/2014/08/08b_bg.aspx?lang=eng.

¹¹⁰² Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada. Canada's response to the Ebola outbreak in the West Africa region. 8 August 2014. Access date: 27 March 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiqués/2014/08/08b_bg.aspx?lang=eng

¹¹⁰³ Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada. Canada's response to the Ebola outbreak in the West Africa region. 8 August 2014. Access date: 27 March 2015. http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiqués/2014/08/08b_bg.aspx?lang=eng.

¹¹⁰⁴ World Health Organization. Ebola vaccine efficacy trial ready to launch in Guinea. 5 March 2015. Access date: 26 March 2015. <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/ebola-vaccine-trial/en/>.

¹¹⁰⁵ China Trains 10,000 Ebola Health Workers, 6 February 2015. Date Accessed: 30 February 2015. <http://www.telesurvtv.net/english/news/China-Trains-10000-Ebola-Health-Workers--20150206-0003.html>

¹¹⁰⁶ Ebola: China sends in more medical workers to West Africa, 13 January 2015. Date Accessed: 30 February 2015. <http://www.theafricareport.com/West-Africa/ebola-china-sends-in-more-medical-workers-to-west-africa.html>

On 20 December 2014, China sent a group of medical experts to Sierra Leone so as to assist in preventing and controlling Ebola. “The 14 expert members of the team will offer training to 4,000 personnel in Sierra Leone.” Materials “including training books and videos; personal protection equipment; temperature-testing equipment; disinfection apparatus; anti-malaria drugs; and logistics” were also taken to Sierra Leone.¹¹⁰⁷

On 25 November 2014, China opened a 100-bed treatment centre in Liberia.¹¹⁰⁸

China has contributed to the long-term strategic eradication of Ebola and has expedited significant funds to an emergency response strategy by strengthening healthcare infrastructure. Thus, China has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andy Li

France: +1

France has complied with its commitment to expedite effective and targeted disbursement of funds for emergency response to counter imminent danger done by the Ebola virus (EBV) as well as promotion of long-term development and capacity building strategies for the eradication of EBV.

In August 2014, France established a four-part plan geared toward the mobilization of up to EUR100 million in response to Ebola. The plan consists of: 1) support for Guinea, 2) building capacities to combat Ebola in the sub-region, 3) multilateral action and 4) medical research.¹¹⁰⁹ The plan includes building treatments centres in Guinea and emphasizes France’s role in “coordinating international assistance and supporting national coordination in Guinea.”¹¹¹⁰ France provided EUR4 million for setting up an Institute Pasteur in Guinea to conduct medical research.¹¹¹¹ In the countries of the sub-region such as Mali, Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia and Cameroon, France provided EUR20 million.¹¹¹² In addition, France contributed EUR5 million to multilateral funds of the World Health Organization, World Food Programme and the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response.¹¹¹³

On 28 November 2014, President François Hollande “reaffirmed ... France is fully engaged in the fight against the epidemic. It’s on the front line in Guinea ... more than EUR110 million in 2014 and 2015 in bilateral and multilateral contributions.”¹¹¹⁴ He emphasized progress made of the French four-part plan, especially the opening of the four treatment centres by the end of 2014 that France

¹¹⁰⁷ Chinese Ebola experts leave for Sierra Leone, 20 December 2014. Date Accessed: 30 February 2025.

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/china/2014-12/20/c_133868423.htm

¹¹⁰⁸ China builds Ebola treatment center in Liberia, 25 November 2014. Date Accessed: 30 February 2015.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-builds-ebola-treatment-center-in-liberia/>

¹¹⁰⁹ Fight against the Ebola epidemic: France’s response, France Diplomatie (Paris). Date Accessed: 26 February 2015.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/>

¹¹¹⁰ Fight against the Ebola epidemic: France’s response, France Diplomatie (Paris). Date Accessed: 26 February 2015.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/>

¹¹¹¹ Fight against the Ebola epidemic: France’s response, France Diplomatie (Paris). Date Accessed: 26 February 2015.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/>

¹¹¹² Fight against the Ebola epidemic: France’s response, France Diplomatie (Paris). Date Accessed: 26 February 2015.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/>

¹¹¹³ Fight against the Ebola epidemic: France’s response, France Diplomatie (Paris). Date Accessed: 26 February 2015.

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/>

¹¹¹⁴ Fight against Ebola- France’s mobilization- Update, France Diplomatie (Paris) 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/article/fight-against-ebola-france-s>.

has funded.¹¹¹⁵ France is also involved in medical research and has “three laboratories ... deployed on the ground.”¹¹¹⁶

From the outset of the epidemic, France has contributed multilateral and bilateral emergency funds to tackle EBV, and has continued to strengthened healthcare infrastructure. Thus France, is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Maria Baginska

Germany: +1

Germany has complied with its commitment to expedite effective and targeted disbursement of funds for emergency response to counter imminent danger done by the Ebola virus (EBV) as well as promotion of long-term development and capacity-building strategies for the eradication of EBV.

On 27 October 2014, the German Centre for Infection Research (DZIF) initiated a network called EBKON that will work to strengthen Ebola research.¹¹¹⁷ This network will be supported by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) with EUR2.3 million until the end of 2015.¹¹¹⁸ EBKON will support 10 projects over 14 months that focus on developing vaccines to prevent Ebola virus infections and learning more about the disease.¹¹¹⁹

On 10 November 2014, the World Food Programme (WFP) received USD30 million from the German government to provide food assistance to people affected with the Ebola virus.¹¹²⁰ This is the largest donation the WFP has received for its Ebola response.¹¹²¹

On 4 December 2014, Germany sent 400 motorbikes equipped with cooler boxes to remote areas in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.¹¹²² These bikes will help facilitate testing for the virus by transporting test samples to laboratories from remote areas.

As of 2 December 2014, Germany had committed more than USD126 million to the Ebola response effort.¹¹²³ Additionally, Germany has established an airlift capability from Dakar, Monrovia, Conakry

¹¹¹⁵ Fight against Ebola- France’s mobilization- Update, France Diplomatie (Paris) 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/article/fight-against-ebola-france-s>.

¹¹¹⁶ Fight against Ebola- France’s mobilization- Update, France Diplomatie (Paris) 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy-1/health-education-gender/fight-against-the-ebola-epidemic/article/fight-against-ebola-france-s>.

¹¹¹⁷ EBKON: Strengthening Ebola Research, DZIF (Germany) 27 October 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. http://www.dzif.de/en/news_events/news_press_releases/view/detail/artikel/ebokon_strengthening_ebola_research/

¹¹¹⁸ EBKON: Strengthening Ebola Research, DZIF (Germany) 27 October 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. http://www.dzif.de/en/news_events/news_press_releases/view/detail/artikel/ebokon_strengthening_ebola_research/

¹¹¹⁹ EBKON: Strengthening Ebola Research, DZIF (Germany) 27 October 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. http://www.dzif.de/en/news_events/news_press_releases/view/detail/artikel/ebokon_strengthening_ebola_research/

¹¹²⁰ Germany Provides €24 Million to Help WFP Meet Critical Food Needs in Ebola Crisis, World Food Program 10 November 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/germany-provides-euro-24-million-help-wfp-meet-critical-food-needs-ebola-crisis>

¹¹²¹ Germany Provides €24 Million to Help WFP Meet Critical Food Needs in Ebola Crisis, World Food Program 10 November 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.wfp.org/news/news-release/germany-provides-euro-24-million-help-wfp-meet-critical-food-needs-ebola-crisis>

¹¹²² Cooler box-equipped motorbikes donated to UN will speed up Ebola testing process in West Africa, United Nations 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. <http://ebolaresponse.un.org/cooler-box-equipped-motorbikes-donated-un-will-speed-ebola-testing-process-west-africa>

and Freetown and is committed to providing equipment and operation support to a 100-bed World Health Organization Ebola treatment unit in Monrovia.¹¹²⁴

Germany has been successful in ensuring the expedited disbursement of funds to affected countries. Additionally, Germany has demonstrated that it is committed to the long-term eradication of EBV by investing in the development of diagnostic tools, vaccines and treatments. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Carol Drumm

India: +1

India has complied with its commitment to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds both as an emergency response and as a long-term measure to assist with the eradication of the Ebola virus.

For a country with a population density of 1.25 billion people and a developing health infrastructure, the threat of Ebola is a serious problem that might turn into a full-blown epidemic.¹¹²⁵

Prior to the Brisbane Summit, the Indian government took necessary emergency precautions to uphold its national security by alerting and establishing active screening of passengers at international airports, opening an emergency helpline, and placing major hospitals on alert ready to deal with Ebola patients.¹¹²⁶ It has also contributed USD12 million to the United Nations to help fight Ebola.¹¹²⁷ According to various UN member states, accounts from nongovernmental organizations, the African Development Bank and the private sector, India has pledged a total of USD10 million for international effort to tackle Ebola to the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response in October.¹¹²⁸ It has also designated laboratories and equipment to test the virus.¹¹²⁹

On 20 November 2014, the Deputy Consul General of India in Sierra Leone, Harish Agnani, donated USD50,000 worth of medical supplies and equipment to the Ministry of Health and Sanitation in Sierra Leone.¹¹³⁰

¹¹²³ FACT SHEET: Update on the Ebola Response, The White House (United States) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/02/fact-sheet-update-ebola-response>

¹¹²⁴ FACT SHEET: Update on the Ebola Response, The White House (United States) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 12 March 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/02/fact-sheet-update-ebola-response>

¹¹²⁵ India steps up watch for deadly Ebola virus, ABC News 9 August 2014, Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-08-09/india-on-alert-for-ebola/5660586>.

¹¹²⁶ Ebola and India, the Hindu Businessline 31 October 2014, Date of Access: 4 March 2015.

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/features/blink/know/ebola-and-india/article6548637.ece>

¹¹²⁷ India to contribute USD 12 million to UN to fight Ebola, The Indian Express 25 September 2014, Date of Access: 5 March 2015. <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/india-to-contribute-usd-12-million-to-un-to-fight-ebola/>.

¹¹²⁸ Ebola outbreak response: a breakdown of the key funding pledges, The Guardian 9 October 2014, Date of Access: 5 March 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/oct/09/ebola-outbreak-response-breakdown-key-funding-pledges>.

¹¹²⁹ How India is Keeping Ebola Out, Rediff News 27 October 2014, Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.rediff.com/news/report/how-india-is-keeping-ebola-out/20141027.htm>.

¹¹³⁰ Sierra Rutile, India Consul and others donate to fight Ebola, State House of the Republic of Sierra Leone Date of Access: 5 March 9, <http://www.statehouse.gov.sl/index.php/contact/1061-sierra-rutile-india-consul-and-others-donate-to-fight-ebola>.

On 9 December 2014, in addition to the 25 buses donated on 4 November 2014, the government of India donated 15 Ashok Leyland 222 WB Falcon buses to the government of Liberia to assist the country with the provision of transportation as it struggles with its fight against Ebola.¹¹³¹

On 9 December 2014, Indian Ambassador to the UN Asoke Kumar Mukerji signed the Standard Administrative Arrangement agreement with Yannick Glemarec, Executive Coordinator of the Ebola Response Multi Partner Trust Fund office of UN Development Programme, as part of its commitment to assist in global efforts to combat Ebola. Under the agreement, India transferred USD10 million towards the global trust fund, specifically established to address the threat of the virus. The donation was pledged back in September, and the signing of the agreement on December 9 has officially transferred the Indian contribution to the Ebola fund.

On 9 December 2014, India provided immediate financial assistance to Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea to be allocated towards the purchase of medical supplies and has provided half USD500,000 to the World Health Organization as part of its international efforts to help eradicate Ebola.¹¹³²

On 9 December 2014, India pledged USD2 million for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment, protective gear designated to assist health workers in countries most affected by Ebola.¹¹³³

On 9 December 2014, the government of India donated USD50,000 to Liberia through bilateral assistance in medicines. In addition to the financial assistance, the government of India allocated an ambulance to be sent to Monrovia as part of the assistance package. The Indian Consul General in Liberia, Upjit S. Sachdeva, also reaffirmed that all Indian owned businesses of the Association of the Indian Community remained open, despite the current threat of Ebola.¹¹³⁴

On 7 January 2015, 26 surveillance experts from the National Polio Surveillance Programme in India flew to Liberia in order to contribute their expertise to help detect Ebola cases and assist with the eradication of the deadly virus.¹¹³⁵

India has fully complied with its efforts to support the global response to tackle Ebola, both through emergency financial assistance and through long-term policies to eradicate Ebola. Thus, India is rewarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Klimenko

¹¹³¹ India Donates 15 Additional Buses... Ambulance to Follow Soon, The Inquirer Newspaper 9 December 2014, Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://monroviainquirer.com/2014/12/09/india-donates-15-additional-busesambulance-to-follow-soon/>.

¹¹³² Committed to assist in global efforts to combat Ebola: India, Reliefweb 10 December 2014, Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://reliefweb.int/report/liberia/committed-assist-global-efforts-combat-ebola-india>.

¹¹³³ Liberia: India Donates 15 Buses to Liberia, Uncova 10 December 2014, Date of Access: 6 Marh 2015. <http://uncova.com/liberia-india-donates-15-buses-to-liberia>

¹¹³⁴ India Donates 15 Additional Buses... Ambulance to Follow Soon, The Inquirer Newspaper 9 December 2014, Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://monroviainquirer.com/2014/12/09/india-donates-15-additional-busesambulance-to-follow-soon/>.

¹¹³⁵ Polio and Ebola: Legacy in Action, Global Polio Eradication Initiative 27 February 2015, Date of Access: 7 March 2015. <http://www.polioeradication.org/mediaroom/newsstories/Polio-and-Ebola--Legacy-in-Action/tabid/526/news/1211/Default.aspx>.

Indonesia: –1

Indonesia has failed to comply with its commitment to support the to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds both as an emergency response and as a long-term measure to assist with the eradication of Ebola through a failure to pledge any financial contribution.

The possibility of the transmission of Ebola to Indonesia is relatively high, due to the high mobility between Indonesia and African countries. Nevertheless, the Indonesian government has not made serious precautions, and measures such as warnings and the safeguarding of entry points taken by Malaysia were not taken in Indonesia. So far, the Indonesian government has only imparted about the disease in limited scopes.¹¹³⁶

On 12 November 2014, Oxfam reported that Indonesia, along with Argentina, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, still need to make contributions to the international response.¹¹³⁷

Indonesia has failed to comply with its efforts to support the global response to tackle Ebola, both through emergency financial assistance and through long-term policies to eradicate Ebola. Thus, Indonesia is rewarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Klimenko

Italy: –1

Italy has failed to comply with its commitment to expedite effective and targeted disbursement of funds for emergency response to counter imminent danger done by the Ebola virus (EBV) as well as promotion of long-term development and capacity building strategies for the eradication of EBV.

On 8 August 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) officially declared the Ebola crisis as “global emergency.” Italy initially responded by committing EUR200,000 to WHO activities in Guinea Conakry.¹¹³⁸

Italy made an additional donation of EUR1.5 million, which consisted of, “another multilateral emergency contribution to the WHO of EUR240,000, and a bilateral emergency initiative executed by Italian NGOs operating in the region.”¹¹³⁹ Italy also financed the United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot in Brindisi, with a donation of EUR200,000.¹¹⁴⁰

Additional funds allocated include EUR3 million to the United Nations and the International Red Cross, EUR1million to UNICEF, EUR1 million Ficross for the fight against the Ebola epidemic in Sierra Leone, and EUR1 million to the World Food Programme.¹¹⁴¹

¹¹³⁶ Beware of Ebola, Tempo, 13 October 2014. Date of Access: 25 March 2015.

<http://en.tempo.co/read/news/2014/10/13/080613802/Beware-of-Ebola>.

¹¹³⁷ Almost half the G20 countries have failed to deliver in the global fight against Ebola, Oxfam International 12 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 March 2015. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-11-12/ebola-almost-half-g20-countries-have-failed-deliver>.

¹¹³⁸ The Italian Response to the Ebola Crisis, Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Rome). Date Accessed: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/Speciali/Speciale%20Emergenze/Ebola.eng.htm>.

¹¹³⁹ The Italian Response to the Ebola Crisis, Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Rome). Date Accessed: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/Speciali/Speciale%20Emergenze/Ebola.eng.htm>.

¹¹⁴⁰ The Italian Response to the Ebola Crisis, Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Rome). Date Accessed: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/Speciali/Speciale%20Emergenze/Ebola.eng.htm>.

¹¹⁴¹ The Italian Response to the Ebola Crisis, Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo (Rome). Date Accessed: 28 February 2015. <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/italiano/Speciali/Speciale%20Emergenze/Ebola.eng.htm>.

Although Italy has contributed multilateral and bilateral emergency funds to tackle EBV from the initial stages of the outbreak, as of the G20 summit in Brisbane it has not expedited funds for emergency response and long-term development. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Maria Banginska

Japan: +1

Japan has complied with its commitments to expedite funds to an emergency response plan and for a long-term strategy for the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV).

On 13 February 2015, the government of Japan announced that it had donated medical and epidemic prevention equipment totalling in the value of USD12.06 million in support of the United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response.¹¹⁴² Furthermore, Japan donated USD5.94 million to the UN Ebola Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund.¹¹⁴³

Japan also announced that it would contribute an additional USD100 million to help countries affected by EBV rebuild their healthcare systems, and stabilize them from any structural damage the countries might have endured as a result of EBV.¹¹⁴⁴

On 24 February 2015, Japan developed a drug called favipiravir that was shown to be somewhat effective in treating patients with a moderate viral load.¹¹⁴⁵ The drug, developed by the Fujifilm company is currently undergoing clinical trials in Guinea. The French National Institute of Health and Medical Research, Inserm, has said that the results “encourage us to continue the trial while trying to provide favipiravir treatment as soon as possible after the symptoms appear.”¹¹⁴⁶

On 25 February 2015, Japan announced that it would be launching a USD3 million project in partnership with the World Bank and Liberia to study the psychological effects of EBV and to promote psychological health within the regions most affected by EBV.¹¹⁴⁷ This grant shows that Japan has consistently complied with the commitments made at the G20 Brisbane Summit.

Since the G20 Brisbane Summit, Japan has consistently contributed funds to both emergency response plans and long-term strategies for the eradication of EBV. Therefore, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Jiyoon Han

¹¹⁴² Japan’s Response to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 13 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015 http://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page23e_000338.html

¹¹⁴³ Japan’s Response to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 13 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015 http://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page23e_000338.html

¹¹⁴⁴ Japan’s Response to the Ebola Outbreak in West Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan (Tokyo) 13 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015 http://www.mofa.go.jp/af/af1/page23e_000338.html

¹¹⁴⁵ Ebola Drug Developed in Japan Halved Mortality Rates, Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015 <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/02/24/national/science-health/ebola-drug-developed-japan-halved-mortality-rates-guinea-patients/#.VPMnxlPF-4Q>

¹¹⁴⁶ Ebola Drug Developed in Japan Halved Mortality Rates, Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015 <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/02/24/national/science-health/ebola-drug-developed-japan-halved-mortality-rates-guinea-patients/#.VPMnxlPF-4Q>

¹¹⁴⁷ Japan Funds 3m Psychosocial Project for Ebola Victims, Public Financial Times (London) 25 February 2015. Date Accessed: 29 February 2015: <http://www.publicfinanceinternational.org/news/2015/02/japan-funds-3m-psychosocial-project-for-ebola-victims/>

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to assist in the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV) by pledging funds towards preparedness and response mechanisms.

As of 31 January 2015, Korea made a deposit of USD5 million to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund that was formed in response to the Ebola epidemic.¹¹⁴⁸

On 26 November 2014, Korea's foreign ministry stated that the country would send a team of medical workers in the following month to assist global efforts to contain the spread of the virus. The first medical team was composed of 15 people: four doctors, six nurses and five medical staff from the military. They began medical operations in Sierra Leone on 29 December 2014. The team safely returned to Korea after four weeks of humanitarian work.¹¹⁴⁹ The team will stay for a period of four weeks, until the 21 March 2015, before returning to Korea.¹¹⁵⁰

On 12 April 2015, the Korean government's humanitarian work to help Ebola patients will officially end, when the last batch of medical workers return to Korea and complete their three-week stay in a quarantine facility.¹¹⁵¹

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to assist in the Ebola epidemic since it provided emergency funds. However, it has not complied with the commitment to support long-term eradication plans. Thus, Korea is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Carmen Wong

Mexico: -1

Mexico has failed to comply with its commitment to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds for both an emergency response and the long-term eradication of Ebola.

As of 22 October 2014, Mexico implemented measures to protect its own national security by training 90% of its healthcare workers, and enforcing airport security checks as of 22 October 2014.¹¹⁵²

Between April 2014 and March 2015, Mexico has donated USD1 million to help combat the outbreak of Ebola, according to Financial Tracking Service.¹¹⁵³ However, between 17 November 2014, and 28 February 2015, Mexico did not provide sufficient assistance. British officials have emphasized that Mexico is one of the few G20 members that is "doing little to tackle the spread of

¹¹⁴⁸ Funding The Ebola Response, Global Ebola Response (South Korea) October 2014. Date of Access: 3 March 2015. <https://ebolareponse.un.org/funding-ebola-response>.

¹¹⁴⁹ Seoul To Send 10 Medical Workers To Ebola-hit Regions, The Korea Times Daily (South Korea) 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 March 2015. <http://www.koreatimes.net/1132403>

¹¹⁵⁰ Seoul To Send 10 Medical Workers To Ebola-hit Regions, The Korea Times Daily (South Korea) 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 March 2015. <http://www.koreatimes.net/1132403>

¹¹⁵¹ Seoul To Send 10 Medical Workers To Ebola-hit Regions, The Korea Times Daily (South Korea) 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 March 2015. <http://www.koreatimes.net/1132403>

¹¹⁵² Mexico on alert for Ebola, WFAA 21 October 2014. Date of Access: 23 February 2015. <http://www.wfaa.com/story/news/world/2014/10/21/mexico-on-alert-for-ebola/17687913/>.

¹¹⁵³ Ebola Virus Outbreak, Financial Tracking Service 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 24 February 2015. http://fts.unocha.org/reports/daily/ocha_R10_E16506_asof___1503010301.pdf.

the disease.”¹¹⁵⁴ It has not provided any donations towards emergency response or long-term eradication.¹¹⁵⁵

Despite taking some national action, Mexico has not offered resources for emergency relief or long-term eradication of Ebola, Mexico has failed to uphold its commitment. Thus, Mexico is awarded the score of -1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Klímenko

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds.

On 19 January 2015, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed an Order No. 43-p.¹¹⁵⁶ According to this document Russia contributes USD2 million to the World Health Organization, USD2 million to the UNICEF, USD3 million to the World Bank and USD1 million to the United Nations to assist Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone affected by the Ebola virus.¹¹⁵⁷

On 3 March 2015, Anna Popova, Head of the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-Being (Rospotrebnadzor), took part in the International High-level Conference “Ebola: From Emergency to Recovery” in Brussels.¹¹⁵⁸ She presented a report on Russia’s emergency response to global efforts in fighting the Ebola. Russia’s contribution was estimated at around USD60 million to assist the affected countries and strengthen international mechanisms, particularly, in boosting the research of vaccines and increasing regional preparedness.¹¹⁵⁹

During the compliance period Russia has taken steps aimed at financing of emergency and longer-term needs. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment to assist in the eradication of Ebola virus (EBV).

¹¹⁵⁴ G20 leaders call for global action to tackle Ebola, Financial Times 15 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3c92b80a-6cbc-11e4-b125-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3T59JhXra>.

¹¹⁵⁵ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/nov/14/david-cameron-funding-indemnities-speed-ebola-vaccines-g20>

¹¹⁵⁶ Order № 43-p, Government of Russia 19 January 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015.

<http://government.ru/media/files/f1CW0xm9K5s.pdf>

¹¹⁵⁷ On Russia’s participation in the international efforts against the Ebola virus, Government of Russia 21 January 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/en/docs/16561/>

¹¹⁵⁸ Head of the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being takes part in the International High-level Conference in Brussels. Date of access: 11 June 2015.

<http://www.russianmission.eu/en/news/head-russian-federal-service-surveillance-consumer-rights-protection-and-human-well-being-takes>

¹¹⁵⁹ Head of the Russian Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Well-being takes part in the International High-level Conference in Brussels. Date of access: 11 June 2015.

http://rospotrebnadzor.ru/press_service/publications/?ELEMENT_ID=3155

As of 12 November 2014, Saudi Arabia was one of four G20 members that had not made any financial contribution to the international response on fighting EBV.¹¹⁶⁰

On 11 December 2014, the Saudi King pledged USD35 million to help fight Ebola in Western African countries.¹¹⁶¹ The Islamic Development Bank states that these funds will provide West African schools, bus, railway and airport stations with thermal sensors and medical examination equipment designed to diagnose the virus.¹¹⁶² This grant will also be used to establish medical testing centres in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Mali.¹¹⁶³

As of 25 February 2015, Saudi Arabia has given USD590,738 in funding toward EBV relief which includes both contributions and commitments.¹¹⁶⁴ Additionally, Saudi Arabia does not have any uncommitted pledges.¹¹⁶⁵

Saudi Arabia has expedited disbursement funds for emergency response and preparedness to recipient countries. However, it has not demonstrated any significant investment in the long-term eradication of EBV. Thus, Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Carol Drumm

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment by expediting a targeted disbursement of funds for emergency response to counter the Ebola virus (EBV) but has failed in the promotion of long-term development and capacity building strategies for the eradication of EBV.

Since August 2014, South Africa “mobilized its private and public sector to raise approximately R50 million for the international health and humanitarian response in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.”¹¹⁶⁶ According to Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi, in addition to generating funds, the Department of Health has financed a National Institute for Communicable Diseases as well as provided necessary medical resources needed for the lab to function.¹¹⁶⁷

¹¹⁶⁰ Almost half the G20 countries have failed to deliver in the global fight against Ebola, Oxfam 12 November 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/media-centre/press-releases/2014/11/almost-half-the-g20-countries-have-failed-to-deliver-in-the-global-fight-against-ebola>

¹¹⁶¹ Saudi pledges \$35 million for fight against Ebola, Daily Mail (United Kingdom) 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2870193/Saudi-pledges-35-million-fight-against-Ebola.html>

¹¹⁶² Saudi pledges \$35 million for fight against Ebola, Daily Mail (United Kingdom) 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2870193/Saudi-pledges-35-million-fight-against-Ebola.html>

¹¹⁶³ Saudi pledges \$35 million for fight against Ebola, Daily Mail (United Kingdom) 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-2870193/Saudi-pledges-35-million-fight-against-Ebola.html>

¹¹⁶⁴ Ebola Virus Outbreak-WEST AFRICA-April 2014, Financial Tracking Service 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&emergID=16506>

¹¹⁶⁵ Ebola Virus Outbreak-WEST AFRICA-April 2014, Financial Tracking Service 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 24 February 2014. <http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=emerg-emergencyDetails&emergID=16506>

¹¹⁶⁶ South Africa ready to deal with Ebola, Brand Africa (Johannesburg) 25 November 2014. Date Accessed: 28 February. <http://www.brandsouthafrica.com/press-room/1130-south-africa-ready-to-deal-with-ebola>.

¹¹⁶⁷ Health on deployment of health workers to treat Ebola in Sierra Leone, South African Government (Johannesburg) 12 February 2015. Date Accessed: February 28 2015. <http://www.gov.za/health-south-african-health-workers-be-deployed-treat-ebola-sierra-leone-under-aseowa>.

On 10 December 2014, the South African cabinet promoted, “the African Union (AU) SMS resource mobilization campaign,” and encouraged South Africans to send “Stop Ebola” SMS in order to donate R10 to the fight against Ebola.¹¹⁶⁸

On 23 January and 20 February 2015 South Africa sent health workers to Ebola affected countries for six months in order to help with capacity building in dealing with treatment of patients.¹¹⁶⁹

Although South Africa committed itself to mobilizing emergency funds in order to tackle the EBV and provide on-site health aid to affected countries, as of the G20 Brisbane Summit it has not expedited funds or resources for long-term eradication of EBV. Thus, South Africa is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Maria Baginska

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to expedite the effective and targeted disbursement of funds and provide an immediate emergency response.

On 12 November 2014, Oxfam urged certain G20 members, among them Turkey, to make a contribution to the international response.¹¹⁷⁰

On 24 February 2015, the Turkish Health Minister Mehmet Müezzinoğlu stated that Turkey would donate six ambulances to Djibouti following an agreement reached between two countries. The agreement also included the establishment of a 50-bed children’s hospital, the location of which is still being determined.¹¹⁷¹

Although Turkey has not contributed to the long-term eradication of Ebola, it has offered only some assistance towards emergency response. Thus, Turkey is awarded the score of 0.

Analyst: Elizaveta Klimenko

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has complied with its commitment to assist in the eradication of the Ebola virus (EBV). The UK has expedited funds to counter immediate damage from the virus and to develop long-term solutions to eradicate the virus.

On 8 February 2015, the UK government pledged EUR33 million to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as part of the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust, to aid in their payments due to the International Monetary Fund. This money will allow Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to devote

¹¹⁶⁸ Statement on Cabinet meeting of 10 December 2014, South African Government (Johannesburg) 11 December 2014. Data Accessed: February 28 2015. <http://www.gov.za/statement-cabinet-meeting-10-december-2014>.

¹¹⁶⁹ Health on deployment of health workers to treat Ebola in Sierra Leone, South African Government (Johannesburg) 12 February 2015. Date Accessed: February 28 2015. <http://www.gov.za/health-south-african-health-workers-be-deployed-treat-ebola-sierra-leone-under-aseowa>.

¹¹⁷⁰ Almost half the G20 countries have failed to deliver in the global fight against Ebola, Oxfam International 12 November 2014. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. <http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2014-11-12/ebola-almost-half-g20-countries-have-failed-deliver>.

¹¹⁷¹ Turkey to donate 6 ambulances to Djibouti, Anadolu Agency 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/470100--turkey-to-donate-6-ambulances-to-djibouti>.

more funds toward fighting the outbreak. In total, the UK has pledged EUR325 million in “direct support to help contain, control, treat and ultimately defeat Ebola.”¹¹⁷²

As of 21 January 2015, the UK made available a further EUR60.5 million to keep more than 1,470 treatment beds and six treatment centres running. The government also pledged a further EUR7 million to fund the Western Area Surge; the money will, “ensure that priorities such as fleet management and continued surveillance ... can be responded to” so that the initiative can continue efforts tracking down hidden cases of Ebola.”¹¹⁷³

The UK government asserts that the Department for International Development continues to ensure British health programmes in, “high risk countries such as Ghana and Ethiopia,” to support national emergency planning as part of a EUR25 million “regional preparedness strategy.”¹¹⁷⁴ The aim is to prevent another outbreak.

On 15 December 2014, International Development Secretary Justine Greening announced the completion of a further five Ebola treatment centres in Sierra Leone by Britain’s Royal Engineers. Each treatment centre will provide 100 treatment beds. Combined with other government-led initiatives — “the UK has recruited, trained and deployed 2,000 community mobilizers, worked with more than 600 religious leaders, and with 40 local radio stations to explain how to reduce the risk of infection and support the reintegration of Ebola survivors” — the country is supporting Sierra Leone’s efforts to eradicate Ebola “until the job is done.”¹¹⁷⁵

The UK has adhered to its commitments, and has pledged funds to support both immediate response plans and long-term strategies to eradicate Ebola. Thus, the United Kingdom is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andy Li

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to provide assistance in the fight against the Ebola virus (EBV) and pledging funds towards establishing long-term plans.

On 26 November 2014, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) reached a major milestone for completing the first phase clinical trial for the cAd3 Ebola vaccine candidate. The results indicated that the vaccine is safe and induces an immune response. A second vaccine, rVSV, is underway at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research at NIH, with results expected in the later months.¹¹⁷⁶

On 2 December 2014, President Barack Obama praised government healthcare agencies for their accomplishment of the first phase of testing on an Ebola vaccine, and called on Congress to pass

¹¹⁷² Government pledges nearly £33m to new Ebola fund, 8 February 2015. Date of Access: 30 February 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-31254564>

¹¹⁷³ Update on Ebola response, 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 30 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-ebola-response>

¹¹⁷⁴ Update on Ebola response, 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 30 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-ebola-response>

¹¹⁷⁵ New UK Ebola centres and labs in Sierra Leone, 15 December 2014. Date of Access: 30 February 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-ebola-centres-and-labs-in-sierra-leone>

¹¹⁷⁶ Fact Sheet: Update On The Ebola Response, The White House (United States) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 Mar 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/02/fact-sheet-update-ebola-response>

additional funding to continue the response against the virus.¹¹⁷⁷ The President requested a total of USD6 billion from both the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Health and Human Services. It was revealed a few days later that he would be awarded the bulk of his request. The money will be used to improve the public health system in the US, combat the epidemic, and speed up the development of vaccines.¹¹⁷⁸

On 2 December 2014, a fact sheet released from the White House Press Secretary addressed the additional facilities that will be added over the next several weeks to further broaden the research of the virus and treat Ebola patients. The Department of Health and Human Services announced that there is a network of 35 Ebola-ready Treatment Centers nationwide with 53 treatment beds available. Hospitals with treatment centres are staffed, equipped, and have been assessed to have the capability, training, and resources to provide any treatment necessary for an Ebola patient.¹¹⁷⁹

On 11 February 2015, a fact sheet released from the White House Press Secretary stated that the epidemic has been placed on a much-improved trajectory. Liberia has reported a handful of new cases per week, a drop of well over 90% compared to the reported cases in October. The United States have trained more than 1,500 healthcare workers, allowing them to provide direct medical care to Ebola patients. As well, the country sent nearly 1,000 civil servants on international deployments to support the Ebola response.¹¹⁸⁰

The United States has succeeded to uphold its commitment to assist in the fight against the Ebola epidemic and provide support towards establishing long-term plans within the country. Thus, the United States is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Carmen Wong

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to assist in the eradication of Ebola virus (EBV).

On 17 November 2014 the European Commission provided new funding of EUR29 million to the worst-hit countries.¹¹⁸¹ This amount will be used for different projects; EUR17 million for transporting aid supplies and equipment to affected countries and to train and deploy health workers and EUR12 million will be used to assist countries that neighbour affected countries in order to help them prepare for the risk of an EBV outbreak.¹¹⁸²

¹¹⁷⁷ Obama Praises Ebola Vaccine Testing, Calls For More Funding, U.S News (United States) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 2 March 2015. <http://www.usnews.com/news/articles/2014/12/02/obama-praises-ebola-vaccine-testing-calls-for-more-funding>

¹¹⁷⁸ Obama To Get Most Of \$6.2 Billion Request To Fight Ebola, The Huffington Post (United States) 5 December 2014. Date of Access: 2 Mar 2015. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/12/05/barack-obama-ebola-funding_n_6275928.html

¹¹⁷⁹ Fact Sheet: Update On The Ebola Response, The White House (United States) 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 Mar 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/12/02/fact-sheet-update-ebola-response>

¹¹⁸⁰ Fact Sheet: Progress In Our Ebola Response At Home And Abroad, The White House (United States) 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 19 March 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/02/11/fact-sheet-progress-our-ebola-response-home-and-abroad>

¹¹⁸¹ EU boosts anti-Ebola aid after Commissioners' mission to worse-hit countries, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1862_en.htm

¹¹⁸² EU boosts anti-Ebola aid after Commissioners' mission to worse-hit countries, European Commission (Brussels) 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1862_en.htm

On 16 January 2015 the European Commission announced eight research projects that will be funded with a total of EUR215 million.¹¹⁸³ Three of these projects will work on advancing the development of vaccines.¹¹⁸⁴ One project is focused on scaling up vaccine manufacture in order to rapidly produce sufficient quantities of the vaccine.¹¹⁸⁵ Another project will be focused on raising awareness of vaccination campaigns and ensure patient compliance for vaccines that require two doses.¹¹⁸⁶ There will be another three projects to develop rapid diagnostic tests.¹¹⁸⁷ Additionally, it was announced that to reinforce the European Union's efforts to help fight EBV in rural communities of Guinea, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control is deploying four teams of French speaking epidemiologists to support response.¹¹⁸⁸

On 13 January 2015 researchers funded by the European Union have developed an approach for identifying and testing antiviral compounds that will help to accelerate the development of treatments for many deadly diseases including Ebola, severe acute respiratory syndrome and dengue fever.¹¹⁸⁹ There has been limited research on the EBV as it was not considered to be a suitable target for drug discovery by the global pharmaceutical industry. Funding from the European Union is helping to change this through the SILVER project that brings together researchers from Europe and Asia.¹¹⁹⁰

On 24 February 2015, it was announced that an antiviral drug called favipiravir may be an effective treatment against early Ebola disease.¹¹⁹¹ This drug was developed from funding received from the Horizon 2020 program. Horizon 2020 is the biggest European Union research and innovation program ever with EUR80 billion of funding available from 2014 to 2020.

The European Union is continuously working to develop partnerships with affected African countries. The European Developing Countries Clinical Trial Partnership is an effort between European and sub-Saharan African countries to develop and test new medical interventions for poverty related diseases including Ebola.¹¹⁹²

¹¹⁸³ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁴ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁵ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁶ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁷ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁸ EU research efforts at front line of fight against Ebola, European Commission (Brussels) 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3343_en.htm

¹¹⁸⁹ Leading the fight against neglected and emerging viruses, European Commission, 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/leading-fight-against-neglected-and-emerging-viruses>

¹¹⁹⁰ Leading the fight against neglected and emerging viruses, European Commission, 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/leading-fight-against-neglected-and-emerging-viruses>

¹¹⁹¹ EU-funding Ebola treatment delivers encouraging results, European Commission, 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/news/eu-funded-ebola-treatment-delivers-encouraging-results>

¹¹⁹² EU-funded research on Ebola: REACTION project Questions and Answers, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. <http://ec.europa.eu/research/health/infectious-diseases/emerging-epidemics/pdf/ebola-reaction-project-q-and-a.pdf>

Since March 2014 the European Union has allocated around EUR60 million in humanitarian funding to address urgent needs.¹¹⁹³ These funds are dispersed through humanitarian organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, International Medical Corps, Save The Children, International Rescue Committee, Alima, the World Food Programme's Humanitarian Air Service, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. This aid helps with treatment and medical supplies, the deployment of doctors and nurses and raising awareness about the disease.¹¹⁹⁴

The European Union has been successful in ensuring the expedient disbursement of funds to affected countries. Additionally, it has demonstrated that it is committed to the long-term eradication of EBV by investing in the development of diagnostic tools, vaccines and treatments. Thus, the European Union receives as score of +1.

Analyst: Carol Drumm

¹¹⁹³ The European Union's response to Ebola emergency (Brussels) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-2464_en.htm

¹¹⁹⁴ The European Union's response to Ebola emergency (Brussels) 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 29 February 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-2464_en.htm

11. Health: Antimicrobial Resistance

“We also commit to fight anti-microbial resistance.”

G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.80	

Background

The G20 addressed the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) for the first time at the Brisbane Summit in the Statement on Ebola.¹¹⁹⁵

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines AMR as “resistance of a microorganism to an antimicrobial drug that was originally effective for treatment of infections caused by it.”¹¹⁹⁶ In that case standard treatments become ineffective, increasing the risk of infection spread to others. While “the evolution of resistant strains is a natural phenomenon” their emergence is accelerated by “the use and misuse of antimicrobial drugs,” including in animal husbandry, “poor infection control practices, inadequate sanitary conditions and inappropriate food-handling.”¹¹⁹⁷

In 2014, WHO published its first global report on surveillance of antimicrobial resistance, with data provided by 114 countries. The report said that “antibiotic resistance is no longer a prediction for the

¹¹⁹⁵ G20 Leaders' Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre 15 November 2014.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>.

¹¹⁹⁶ Antimicrobial resistance. Fact sheet N°194, WHO April 2014.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/>.

¹¹⁹⁷ Antimicrobial resistance. Fact sheet N°194, WHO April 2014.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/>.

future; it is happening right now, across the world, and is putting at risk the ability to treat common infections in the community and hospitals.” The World Trade Organization noted that “without urgent, coordinated action, the world is heading towards a post-antibiotic era, in which common infections and minor injuries, which have been treatable for decades, can once again kill.”¹¹⁹⁸

Commitment Features

In making the commitment on AMR the G20 also noted that “interested G20 members are supporting this goal through initiatives to accelerate action across the Economic Community of West African States and other vulnerable regions and will report progress and announce a time frame by May 2015 at the World Health Assembly.” Given that it does not constitute a separate commitment and does not cover all G20 members these actions should not be regarded as binding for achieving full compliance. However, they should be included in the report as additional actions.

As measures that policymakers can take to tackle AMR, WHO defines the following:

1. strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity;
2. strengthening infection control and prevention;
3. regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines;
4. promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders;
5. fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics; infection treatment options and other tools.¹¹⁹⁹

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not take actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in any of five areas defined by the World Health Organization.
0	Member takes actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in fewer than four out of five areas defined by the World Health Organization.
+1	Member takes actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in four or five areas defined by the World Health Organization.

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 18 November 2014, a delegation from Argentina’s Ministry of Health attended a meeting on health cooperation agreement with Caribbean countries signed in 2013. According to the agreement, its sides are to collaborate in such spheres as organ procurement and transplantation, strengthening antimicrobial resistance and control of chronic noncommunicable diseases. During the two days of the conference, the sides analyzed the current outcomes of collaboration as well as proposed new measures to foster cooperation. In that way, Argentina, on the one hand, strengthened resistance tracking and, on the other hand, promoted international cooperation in the field.¹²⁰⁰

¹¹⁹⁸ Antimicrobial resistance: global report on surveillance 2014, WHO.
<http://www.who.int/drugresistance/documents/surveillance-report/en/>.

¹¹⁹⁹ Antimicrobial resistance. Fact sheet N°194, WHO April 2014.
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs194/en/>.

¹²⁰⁰ Argentina asiste a reunión por acuerdo de cooperación sanitaria con los países del Caribe, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.
<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2404-argentina-asiste-a-reunion-por-acuerdo-de-cooperacion-sanitaria-con-los-paises-del-caribe>.

On 8 January 2015, Argentina started a nationwide rotavirus vaccination, which will be compulsory and free for all children born after 1 November 2014. The vaccine has been included into the official national vaccination calendar and is available in all public hospitals and health centres. In Argentina, rotavirus is reported to cause between 100,000 to 165,000 cases of acute diarrhea annually among the children under five years old. As a result, Argentina has strengthened infection control and prevention.¹²⁰¹

On 15 January 2015, Argentina announced the vaccination of children against chickenpox that is due to start in the second quarter of 2015. The vaccination is already included into the National Immunization Schedule and will be compulsory and free for all children at the age of 15 months. Chickenpox leads to about 400,000 new cases, 1,000 hospitalizations and between 15 to 20 deaths every year. Therefore, this vaccination will be a step to greater infection control and prevention.¹²⁰²

On 3-4 March 2015, the Ministry of Health held a two-day training course on the prevention and treatment of the Chikungunya virus. The event was organized in cooperation with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) of WHO to prepare for possible outbreaks of the virus that has already been detected in several Caribbean and South American countries. By holding this training course, Argentina has strengthened infection control and prevention.¹²⁰³

On 6 March 2015, the Ministry of Health announced the start of registration for a free online course “Drugs in Primary Care Health Care: Medication Management Cycle” organized in close collaboration with PAHO. The ones who enroll for the course will get acquainted with the production, distribution and medication use. Thus, Argentina has taken steps to promoting appropriate use of medicines.¹²⁰⁴

On 17 March 2015, the Ministry of Health of Argentina introduced a two-day Remediation Programme that is aimed at promoting the importance of rational drug use. The event was attended by teachers from a number of Argentinian universities and institutes and can be rated as a step to promoting appropriate use of medicines.¹²⁰⁵

On 22 March 2015, Daniel Gollan, the Minister of Health, officially included the meningococcal vaccination into the official national vaccination calendar. The vaccine will be free for all children

¹²⁰¹ Desde Jujuy, autoridades sanitarias pusieron en marcha la vacunación contra el rotavirus en todo el país, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 8 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2489-desde-jujuy-autoridades-sanitarias-pusieron-en-marcha-la-vacunacion-contra-el-rotavirus-en-todo-el-pais>.

¹²⁰² Confirmó Manzur que en el segundo trimestre de 2015 comenzará vacunación gratuita y obligatoria contra la varicella, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2497-confirmando-manzur-que-en-el-segundo-trimestre-de-2015-comenzara-vacunacion-gratuita-y-obligatoria-contra-la-varicela>.

¹²⁰³ Ministerio de Salud de la Nación impulsa capacitación sobre chikunguña para trabajadores sanitarios, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 3 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2544-ministerio-de-salud-de-la-nacion-impulsa-capacitacion-sobre-chikunguna-para-trabajadores-sanitarios>.

¹²⁰⁴ Abren la inscripción al curso virtual de cuidado de medicamentos en atención primaria de la salud, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2552-abren-la-inscripcion-al-curso-virtual-de-cuidado-de-medicamentos-en-atencion-primaria-de-la-salud->.

¹²⁰⁵ El Programa Remediar capacitará a equipos docentes de universidades públicas y privadas de todo el país, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 17 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2565-el-programa-remediar-capacitara-a-equipos-docentes-de-universidades-publicas-y-privadas-de-todo-el-pais#sthash.Lq6gRpBl.dpuf>.

under one year old (one dose of the vaccine used to cost almost USD100). In Argentina, 200-300 cases of meningococcal disease are recorded annually (with the 100% hospitalization rate), in 1 case out of 10 the infection leads to fatal outcome. Therefore, this vaccination will improve infection control and prevention.¹²⁰⁶

On 26 March 2015, Gollan received Francisco Osuna Ortega, the Secretary for Health of the Federal District of Mexico. During the meeting, the officials discussed the potential areas of future cooperation including the possibility for the exchange of the medical staff as well as the practical experience in the prevention of various diseases. In this way, Argentina took actions on promoting cooperation and information sharing among the G20 stakeholders.¹²⁰⁷

Argentina has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in four of the five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The Australian government plans to develop the National AMR Strategy, focusing on bacterial resistance and the use of antibiotics. The development is being led by the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention and Containment Steering Group, which includes government officials from the Departments of Health and Agriculture, as well as the chief medical officer and chief veterinary officer.¹²⁰⁸ Using scientific and clinical expert advice, the steering group promotes infection prevention and control activities, while ensuring integration of AMR policies across health and agriculture.¹²⁰⁹

The Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on AMR was created by the Departments of Health and Agriculture “to develop and provide technical, scientific and clinical advice to the steering group to inform the development of the National AMR Strategy, and strategic advice to help ensure actions under the strategy are effectively and efficiently implemented.”¹²¹⁰

According to the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Terms of reference, published in November 2014, the group will, in addition to the functions mentioned above, ensure “effective linkages between governments, industry, professional bodies, educational institutions and other key stakeholders.” The group also provides advice to the

¹²⁰⁶ Vacuna contra Meningococo quedó incluida oficialmente en el Calendario Nacional de Vacunación, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. 12 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2559-vacuna-contra-meningococo-queda-incluida-oficialmente-en-el-calendario-nacional-de-vacunacion>.

¹²⁰⁷ Gollan recibió a Secretario de Salud del Distrito Federal de México, Ministerio de Salud de Argentina. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.msal.gov.ar/prensa/index.php/noticias/noticias-de-la-semana/2576-gollan-recibio-a-secretario-de-salud-del-distrito-federal-de-mexico>.

¹²⁰⁸ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Australian Government. Date of Access 16 May 2015. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-amr.htm>.

¹²⁰⁹ Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Terms of Reference, Australian Government. Date of Access 16 May 2015. [https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/\\$File/ASTA-G-TOR.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/$File/ASTA-G-TOR.pdf).

¹²¹⁰ Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), Australian Government. Date of Access 16 May 2015. <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-amr.htm>.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee, the Therapeutic Goods Administration and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority on the availability and conditions of use of specific antimicrobial products.¹²¹¹

According to portfolio budget statement 2015-2016, in the forthcoming year Australia will develop the National AMR Implementation Plan to support the National AMR Strategy. The Australian government also pledges to continue funding the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to establish national surveillance of AMR and antibiotic usage. The statement also stipulated the establishment “of a national surveillance system for antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage across hospital and community settings” as a deliverable of the Safety and Quality in Health Care program for 2015-2016.¹²¹²

Thus, Australia has taken actions conforming to the following recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO): strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, strengthening infection control and prevention, regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines, promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

During the compliance period Australia has taken steps aimed at fighting AMR in four of five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 19 November 2014, ANVISA suspended the distribution, sale and use of D713005 Lot Aldosterin medicine (Spironolactone 100 mg tablet with 16 tablets). The product was manufactured by Aspen Pharma Ind. Farm. Ltda and is valid until April 2016. The measure was taken because of the unsatisfactory results obtained in the description of sample essays and appearance.¹²¹³ The action refers to regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines.

On 27 November 2014, Brazil closed first stage of restructuring Haiti’s public health. Brazil financed the reconstruction of two specialized laboratories in epidemiological surveillance, responsible for carrying out the main examinations necessary for the identification of relevant diseases such as malaria, dengue, tuberculosis, leprosy and cholera, and the vector control and insects. Brazil also made other measures aimed at health surveillance, such as hiring of professionals specializing in the prevention and control of communicable diseases. Other actions were promoted by supporting vaccination campaigns and sending vaccines — Brazil sent nearly six million doses to the Caribbean

¹²¹¹ Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Terms of reference, Australian Government November 2014. Date of Access 14 May 2015.
[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/\\$File/ASTA-G-TOR.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/1803C433C71415CACA257C8400121B1F/$File/ASTA-G-TOR.pdf).

¹²¹² Budget 2015-2016, Portfolio Budget Statement, Health portfolio, Australian Government 2015. Date of Access 16 May 2015. [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/2015-2016_Health_PBS_sup1/\\$File/2015-16_Health_PBS_0.0_Complete.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/budget/publishing.nsf/Content/2015-2016_Health_PBS_sup1/$File/2015-16_Health_PBS_0.0_Complete.pdf).

¹²¹³ Suspensão Lote de Medicamento, Brazilian ANVISA 19 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015.
<http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cWCZ>

island, worth about USD1.9 million.¹²¹⁴ The actions refer to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity; strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 1 December 2014, ANVISA updated antimicrobial list prescription. New substances on the list are Besifloxacin, rifabutin, Ceftazidime, dactinomycin, mitomycin, Nitrofurantoin, Sulfacetamide Chlorphenesin and Gramicidin. The new determination came into force from 16 December 2014. The purpose of the standard is to reduce the damage due to the misuse of antibiotics. Incorrect use of these products leads to increased microbial resistance and the medium term makes them less effective.¹²¹⁵ The action refers to regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines.

On 5 December 2014, the ministers of health of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) developed joint strategy to expand supply of medicines to patients with the disease in the BRICS and in low-income countries.¹²¹⁶ The action refers to promoting cooperation and information sharing among stakeholders.

On 8 December 2014, ANVISA registered two generics which can be used as alternative to Nitazoxanide and Mebeverine Hydrochloride. The registration of generics results in drop in prices of medicines and provides both patients and physicians with variety of options for treatment.¹²¹⁷ The action refers to fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools.

On 10 December 2014, the Inter-American System Rapid Alerts (Siar) was launched during the meeting of the Organization of American States Permanent Council on 10 December in Washington. ANVISA contributed technical information and financial resources to develop the project. Siar is a tool to exchange information and experience on the safety of consumer products and their impact on health.¹²¹⁸ The action refers to strengthening infection control and prevention; promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

On 1 January 2015, ANVISA granted a registration application for a new drug to treat hepatitis C, the Daklinza (daclatasvir). Thus, physicians and patients now have another treatment option for the disease.¹²¹⁹ The action refers to fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools.

On 20 January 2015, the law 13,097/15 was introduced and includes several innovations to the work of health surveillance in Brazil. It changes the way of doing the sanitary regulation in the country, giving more flexibility to ANVISA and the National Health Surveillance System to prioritize risk

¹²¹⁴ Brasil Encerra Primeira Etapa da Restruturação da Saúde Pública do Haiti, Brazilian Portal da Saúde 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://portalsaude.saude.gov.br/index.php/o-ministerio/principal/secretarias/570-secretaria-executiva-raiz/secretaria-se/desid-raiz/15923-brasil-encerra-primeira-etapa-da-restruturacao-da-saude-publica-do-haiti>

¹²¹⁵ Mais Nove Antibióticos Passam a Ter Retenção de Receita, Brazilian ANVISA 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cWPy>

¹²¹⁶ BRICS: Países Propõe Acesso Universal aos Medicamentos Contra Tuberculose, Brazilian Associação de Imprensa da Barra 5 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://aibnews.com.br/noticias/plantao-mundo/2014/12/brics-paises-propoe-acesso-universal-aos-medicamentos-contratuberculose.html>

¹²¹⁷ Anvisa Aprova Mais Dois Genéricos Inéditos para o Mercado, Brazilian ANVISA 8 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cWW3>

¹²¹⁸ Sistema Interamericano com Alertas de Segurança de Produtos já Está Funcionando, Brazilian ANVISA 26 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cXJj>

¹²¹⁹ Anvisa Registra Novo Medicamento para Tratamento da Hepatite C, Brazilian ANVISA 14 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cXnQ>

situations. The standard will also allow an expansion of the laboratory network that perform control and supervision of analyzes for the health surveillance, that because ANVISA or own official laboratories may accredit other public or private laboratories for this purpose.¹²²⁰ The action refers to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity; strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 5 February 2015, ANVISA approved the new standard which requires that in case the agency does not perform the evaluation of the drug clinical development briefings containing clinical trials projects to be held in Brazil within 90 days, the study can be started, if approved by the bodies that assess the ethical aspects of research. Thus, clinical trials which are necessary for the development of new medicines and health products gained more agility in the country.¹²²¹ The action refers to fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools.

On 19 February 2015, the National Health Fund transferred USD16.2 million to the state and municipal health funds, which are used for investments in the public health network. These investments are allocated to the construction of the health clubs and the UBS Renewal Program and the basic health units.¹²²² The action refers to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity and strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 25 February 2015, the Ministry of Health announced it would select 50 people between 18 and 26 years of age to monitor and supervise the public health policies on HIV/AIDS. The goal is to form a group to participate in the New Training Course Leaders Population Key Aiming at the Social Control of the Unified Health System. The course is performed by the Sexually Transmitted Disease, AIDS and Viral Hepatitis Surveillance Secretariat of Health of the Ministry of Health, together with the UNAIDS, UNICEF and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.¹²²³ The action refers to promoting cooperation and information sharing among stakeholders.

On 9 March 2015, the Health Minister Arthur Chioro, launched a country-wide vaccination campaign against human papillovirus.¹²²⁴ The action refers to strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 10 December 2014, Brazil made a dummy for Ebola suspected case in Port of Santos. The objective was to put into practice the developed protocol for this situation, serving as training institutions involved in conditions simulating a real case.¹²²⁵

¹²²⁰ Nova Lei Moderniza o Trabalho da Vigilância Sanitária no País, Brazilian ANVISA 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cYqf>

¹²²¹ Brasil Moderniza Regras para Pesquisa Clínica, Brazilian ANVISA 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://s.anvisa.gov.br/wps/s/r/cYEW>

¹²²² FNS Transfere Recursos para Investimentos na Rede Pública de Saúde, Brazilian Fundo Nacional de Saúde 20 February 2015. Date of access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.fns.saude.gov.br/visao/carregarInformacao.jsf>

¹²²³ Brasil e ONU Formam Líderes para Controle do HIV e Aids, Portal Brasil 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/saude/2015/02/brasil-e-onu-formam-lideres-para-controle-do-hiv-e-aids>

¹²²⁴ Ministério da Saúde Lança Campanha de Vacinação Contra HPV, Brazilian Portal da Saúde 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://portalsaude.saude.gov.br/index.php/cidadao/principal/agencia-saude/16948-ministerio-da-saude-lanca-campanha-de-vacinacao-contr-hpv>

¹²²⁵ Porto de Santos Realiza Simulado para Ebola, Brazilian Portal da Saúde 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://portalsaude.saude.gov.br/index.php/o-ministerio/principal/secretarias/svs/noticias-svs/15977-porto-de-santos-realiza-simulado-para-ebola>

On 4 December 2014, it was reported that Brazil's government had provided more than USD9.76 million to help efforts against Ebola in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. The donation was allocated to multiple UN divisions. Half the amount was given to the WHO to provide care to infected populations and support prevention efforts. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees received USD2.54 million for basic services including healthcare. The World Food Programme received USD1.76 million to provide food. The remaining USD590,000 was channelled into the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response. According to a statement by the Foreign and Health Ministries, Brazil had provided another USD1.17 million to WHO and the Pan American Health Organization in November for the same purpose.¹²²⁶

Brazil has taken actions to fight AMR in all five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 13 April 2015, the government of Canada announced it would invest CAD4 million to support researchers to work with international partners on projects that focus on identifying new targets for antimicrobial drug development, new approaches to treating drug-resistant bacterial infections, and methods for preserving the effectiveness of existing antibiotics.¹²²⁷

On 17 April 2015, Health Canada proposed new measures and strengthen regulations to minimize the global emergence and spread of AMR, and conserve the effectiveness of available antimicrobials.¹²²⁸ These actions will protect public health and food safety. These initiatives are part of the government's recently released Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Use in Canada.¹²²⁹ This plan refers to actions in all five areas.

During the compliance period Canada has taken actions to fight AMR in five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in four areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 3 December 2014, members of the China-aided Ebola centre in Liberia reported that they could start to receive and diagnose suspected Ebola patients. The medical treatment procedures includes

¹²²⁶ Brazil Donates \$9.76 Million to Help Fight Ebola, Agência Brasil 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/internacional/noticia/2014-12/brazil-donates-976-million-help-fight-ebola>

¹²²⁷ Government of Canada supports world-class research on antimicrobial resistance. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&ctr.page=1&nid=962359>

¹²²⁸ Health Canada proposes new measures to address antimicrobial resistance. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?nid=965249>

¹²²⁹ Federal Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance and Use in Canada: Building on the Federal Framework for Action. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/publications/drugs-products-medicaments-produits/antibiotic-resistance-antibiotique/action-plan-daction-eng.php>

patients' reception, diagnosis and nursing care to be provided in accordance with a carefully designed process and a very strict standard.¹²³⁰ Thus China cooperates with Liberia to fight AMR.

On 14 January 2015, the China Food and Drug Administration stated that it “approved the production of the first inactivated poliomyelitis vaccine made from Sabin strains (single component), which was researched and developed by the Institute of Medical Biology, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. The vaccine protects children against infecting poliovirus by injection. The launch of the Sabin IPV will be critical to eradicating poliomyelitis in China.”¹²³¹ This fact demonstrates that China develops new vaccines to fight AMR.

On 31 January 2015, China's first laboratory to study highly contagious and fatal diseases opened in Wuhan city, which provides scientists possibility to research live Ebola viruses. China thus strengthened its laboratory capacity to fight AMR.¹²³²

On 2 March 2015, Botswana and China signed a protocol on the 14th China Medical Team to work in Botswana. Botswana Minister of Health Dorcas Makgato said China will also provide scholarships for short- and long-term training in different health programs, particularly in medicine, nursing, laboratory sciences, HIV/AIDS and pharmacy.¹²³³ China thus provides Botswana with specialized medical personnel to promote cooperation, and shares information in health sphere with them.

On 11 March 2015, China opened a biosafety laboratory in Sierra Leone to support lab testing for contagious diseases and provide a foundation for redeveloping Sierra Leone's health system. This lab will play a major role in preventing and controlling Ebola.¹²³⁴ China thus promotes cooperation and information sharing with Sierra Leone specialists, and strengthens infection control and prevention.

On 27 March 2015, at a China-Africa health roundtable director of the Foreign Ministry's African Affairs Department, Lin Songtian stated that China will help the African Union to construct a disease prevention and control centre, which will join epidemic surveillance facilities in each member countries. It will improve Africa with its public health system post-Ebola.¹²³⁵ Consequently China not only promotes cooperation with the African Union, but also strengthens infection control and prevention in African countries.

During the compliance period China has taken actions to fight AMR in four areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

¹²³⁰ China-aided Ebola center in Liberia to receive patients, the Ministry of National Defence of the People's Republic of China 3 December 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://eng.mod.gov.cn/DefenseNews/2014-12/05/content_4555783.htm

¹²³¹ The first Sabin IPV approved by CFDA, China Food and Drug Administration 14 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://eng.sfda.gov.cn/WS03/CL0757/112461.html>

¹²³² Top-level lab gears up to study Ebola virus, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 31 January 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/02/02/content_281475048993472.htm

¹²³³ Botswana: More Chinese Medical Workers Coming to Botswana, the Chinese Government Forum on China-Africa Cooperation 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. <http://www.mfa.gov.cn/zflt/eng/jlydh/mtsy/t1241679.htm>

¹²³⁴ Chinese bio-safety lab put in place in Africa, the National Health and Family Planning Commission of the People's Republic of China 11 March 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://en.nhfpc.gov.cn/2015-03/16/content_19825809.htm

¹²³⁵ China to help Africa strengthen post-Ebola health system, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 27 March 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/international_exchanges/2015/03/28/content_281475079091506.htm

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in four areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

France supports a large number of projects on resistance to Ebola and other viruses in Guinea and other African countries.¹²³⁶ In 2015 France continues financing retrovirus actions to eradicate Ebola.¹²³⁷ This action refers to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, as well as strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 4 December 2014, France proposed special network to serve as a host panel to unite researchers and health authorities to discuss AMR.¹²³⁸ Also the Institute Pasteur's Ebola Task Force is fighting the virus on the ground and in the laboratory in France, together with WHO and nongovernmental organizations including Médecins Sans Frontières and the Red Cross and Red Crescent.¹²³⁹ This action is in line with promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders, as recommended by WHO.

On 27 January 2015, the French Minister of Finance and Public Accounts, the French Minister of State for Development and Francophonie, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced the innovative mechanism aimed at increasing funding to support vaccination and immunization programs and to improve the efficiency of the health sector in the Sahel region. The pilot initiative will amount to EUR100 million over the period 2016-2020.¹²⁴⁰ This action refers to fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools.

During the compliance period France has taken actions to fight AMR in four areas defined by the WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 10 December 2014, the German Ministry of Health posted on its website a report concerning the main measures already taken against Ebola.¹²⁴¹ Among them are measures that correspond with the following guidelines:

- In the course of strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity 24-hour hotline was set up at the Robert Koch Institute, the Bernhard Nocht Institute for Tropical Medicine and the

¹²³⁶ Lutte contre Ebola. Date of Access: 22 April 2014. <http://www.transparence-aide.gouv.fr/ebola/>

¹²³⁷ Que faire face à Ebola? Date of Access: 22 April 2014. http://www.afd.fr/home/projets_afd/sante-health/ebola-afd

¹²³⁸ Plan interministériel de prévention et de lutte contre le virus Ebola. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Plan-interministeriel-de.html>

¹²³⁹ Fighting Ebola on All Fronts. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.. <http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/ebola-institut-pasteur-africa-by-christian-br-chot-2014-12>

¹²⁴⁰ La France et la Fondation Bill & Melinda Gates annoncent une initiative commune de 100 millions d'euros pour accélérer l'accès à la vaccination au Sahel. Date of Access: 22 2015. <http://www.afd.fr/home/presse-afd/communiqués?actuCtnId=124658>

¹²⁴¹ Protection Against Infection In Germany, Federal Ministry of Health of Germany 10 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.bmg.bund.de/en/ministry/news/protection-against-infection-in-germany.html>

Institute for Virology of the University of Marburg provide a 24-hour emergency service for diagnosis-related questions;

- In the course of strengthening infection control and prevention all airports have special emergency plans and special spaces, the Robert Koch Institute cooperated with the health authorities of the Federal Länder and the scientific medical societies to draw up the Ebola virus disease framework;
- In the course of promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders a special human pathogen information sheet about the Ebola virus was issued, regular training and simulation exercises are conducted under the supervision of the competent health authorities (for example, by Robert Koch Institute, the National Association of Statutory Health Insurance Physicians, the German Hospital Federation and the Federal Union of German Associations of Pharmacists).

On 26-27 January 2015, Germany hosted the GAVI pledging conference to replenish the fund for 2016-2020.¹²⁴² (GAVI is an international organization bringing together the public and private sectors to create equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.) On the whole, USD7.539 billion were pledged. From 2016 to 2020, there will be EUR600 million just from the increases in German support. These funds are also intended to support efforts to develop an Ebola vaccine and establish basic healthcare structures in the affected countries.¹²⁴³ Thus, the event can be referred to fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools.

Germany has taken actions to fight AMR in four areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 10-13 November 2014, in Jaipur at the Regional Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance India and 11 other member states of the South-East Asian Region, pledged to carry out research studies in order to assess trend of AMR and address local challenges and to make the communities aware of the particular risks connected with self-medication. This action strengthens infection control.

According to the conclusions of the meeting, India will use social institutes to raise awareness of the issue of AMR, which promotes information sharing.

The countries have to create a system to test and assess the quality of drugs, recovery methods and conditions of sale to promote appropriate use of medicines.¹²⁴⁴

¹²⁴² GAVI Pledging Conference January 2015, GAVI 26 January 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.gavi.org/Funding/Resource-mobilisation/Process/Gavi-pledging-conference-January-2015/>

¹²⁴³ Target Of 7.5 Billion Us Dollars For GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance Is Surpassed, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany 27 January 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.bmz.de/20150127-2en>

¹²⁴⁴ Regional Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance Jaipur, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia 10-13 November 2014. Date of access: 7 April 2015.

http://www.searo.who.int/entity/antimicrobial_resistance/con_recom_amr2014.pdf?ua=1.

Acting within the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia, the Indian government published booklets on prevention of antibiotic resistance¹²⁴⁵ and on how to use antibiotics rationally¹²⁴⁶ in order to promote both appropriate use of medicines and information sharing.

On 27 February 2015 the Department of Community Medicine and Family Medicine (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) published an article that stated that according to the recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on Newer Antimicrobials four new vaccines would be included in the Universal Immunization Program.¹²⁴⁷ The establishment of National Technical Advisory Group was an obligation of the government of India (National Centre for Disease Control) according to the incumbent National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance and aimed at fostering research and development of new drugs and vaccines.¹²⁴⁸

India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Health and Family Welfare announced that 12 medical college labs are collaborating with the National Centre for Disease Control and nine with the Indian Council of Medical Research.¹²⁴⁹ The Ministry of Health set up a goal to establish 10 medical college labs by the year of 2015.¹²⁵⁰ Thus, India is strengthening its laboratory capacity.

India has acted to fight AMR in the five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment on health. It has taken some actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 24 March 2015, Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla and Minister of Health Nila F. Moeloek launched the National Strategy of Tuberculosis Control for 2015-2019. The strategy provides for a number of measures to address tuberculosis, including those related to tackling drug resistance. The measures included in the strategy correspond with the following areas defined by WHO: strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity; strengthening infection control and prevention; and regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines.¹²⁵¹

¹²⁴⁵ Seasonal Communicable Diseases and Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia Date of access: 7 April 2015. http://www.searo.who.int/entity/antimicrobial_resistance/WHD-11_cds-info.pdf?ua=1.

¹²⁴⁶ Use Antibiotics Rationally, WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia Date of access: 7 April 2015. http://www.searo.who.int/entity/antimicrobial_resistance/links/WHD-11_UAR-poster.pdf?ua=1.

¹²⁴⁷ Four new vaccines for routine immunization in India: What about hemophilus influenza B and pneumococcal vaccine? Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care, Official Publication of the Academy of Family Physicians of India 27 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.jfmpc.com/article.asp?issn=2249-4863;year=2015;volume=4;issue=1;page=9;epage=12;aulast=Paul>.

¹²⁴⁸ National Policy for Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance, Centre for Disease Control, Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India. Date of access: 7 April 2015. http://www.ncdc.gov.in/writereaddata/linkimages/amr_policy1600931343.pdf.

¹²⁴⁹ Laboratories under the IDSP (NCDC) and ICMR network with capacity of testing Influenza virus, Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Health & Family Welfare 26 February 2015. Date of access: 7 April 2015. <http://mohfw.gov.in/WriteReadData/l892s/58722977381424952600.pdf>.

¹²⁵⁰ Review of Performance, Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of Health & Family Welfare 30 July 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://mohfw.nic.in/WriteReadData/l892s/8ReviewofPerformance2906.pdf>.

¹²⁵¹ Cadre Knocking the Door to Control TB, Ministry of Health of Indonesia 24 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.depkes.go.id/article/view/15040100001/kader-ketok-pintu-untuk-kendalikan-tb.html>.

Indonesia has taken actions to fight AMR in three areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment on fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In cooperation with the European Union it maintains several policies aimed at fighting AMR.

The Italian Ministry of Health, in accordance with the EU guidelines for the control of antibiotic resistance in the veterinary field, guarantees the application of the EU requirements in development and production of veterinary medicines containing antibiotics, provides instructions to ensure the prudent use of antibiotics, and monitors educational and outreach initiatives to inform farmers and veterinarians on the conscious use of antibiotics and chemotherapeutics. It is also taking steps to make available national guidelines on prudent use of antibiotics in veterinary.¹²⁵²

The Experimental Veterinary Institutes (Istituti zooprofilattici sperimentali) network serves as an important mechanism of surveillance for the National Health Service of Italy, monitoring animal diseases and of their transmissibility to humans and supporting veterinaries through providing, upon request, specific diagnostic services for antimicrobial resistance assessment.¹²⁵³

Thus, Italy takes actions which correspond with the following recommendations by the World Health Organization (WHO): strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, strengthening infection control and prevention, regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines, and promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

During the compliance period Italy has taken steps aimed at fighting antimicrobial resistance in four out of five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Japan surveys 110 infectious diseases including seven AMR bacterial infections using National Epidemiological Surveillance of Infectious Disease.¹²⁵⁴ This action refers to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, as well as strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 18 December 2015, the UK-Japan Workshop on AMR was held in Tokyo. The workshop brought together expert scientists, clinicians, academics and veterinarians from the UK and Japan to discuss this threat and to explore ways of mutually tackling antimicrobial resistance in a joint

¹²⁵² Politiche comunitarie contro l'antibiotico-resistenza e attività degli organismi nazionali e sovranazionali, Italian Ministry of Health 28 January 2015. Date of access: 18 May 2015.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/p2_6.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=1449&area=veterinari&menu=antibiotici.

¹²⁵³ Politiche comunitarie contro l'antibiotico-resistenza e attività degli organismi nazionali e sovranazionali, Italian Ministry of Health 28 January 2015. Date of access: 18 May 2015.

http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/temi/p2_6.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=1449&area=veterinari&menu=antibiotici.

¹²⁵⁴ Surveillance system of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections in Japan. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. [http://www.e-jmii.com/article/S1684-1182\(15\)00179-6/fulltext](http://www.e-jmii.com/article/S1684-1182(15)00179-6/fulltext)

collaborative manner.¹²⁵⁵ This action refers to the promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders action area defined by WHO.

As of 1 January 2015, about 1,600 hospitals are participating in the Japan Nosocomial Infections Surveillance to fight AMR.¹²⁵⁶ It is organized by Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare and the National Institute of Infectious Diseases.^{1257,1258,1259} This action refers to the area of fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools, and also with regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines especially among children.

During the compliance period Japan has taken actions to fight AMR in five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on health. It has taken some of the five actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 14-15 May 2015, Korea hosted the 10th International Symposium on Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance to discuss strategies and actions. The conference was supported by the Seoul-based Asia Pacific Foundation for Infectious Diseases.¹²⁶⁰

On 10-12 June 2015, Korea hosted the sixth Annual Meeting of the Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance. One of the objectives of the meeting was to “develop a five-year strategic plan following the adoption of the WHO Global Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance at the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly in May 2015.”¹²⁶¹

During the compliance period Korea took steps to fight AMR through promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders, which corresponds to one of the five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on fighting antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Several measures were adopted by Mexico in this way.

¹²⁵⁵ UK-Japan Antimicrobial Resistance Workshop. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://bsac.org.uk/news/uk-japan-antimicrobial-resistance-workshop/>

¹²⁵⁶ 参加医療機関一覧 2015年1月. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.nih-janis.jp/hospitallist/index.html>

¹²⁵⁷ Japan Nosocomial Infections Surveillance (JANIS). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.nih-janis.jp/about/index.html>

¹²⁵⁸ Ministry of Health Labour and Welfare. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/>

¹²⁵⁹ National Institute of Infectious Diseases.(NIID). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.nih.go.jp/niid/>

¹²⁶⁰ 10th International Symposium on Antimicrobial Agents and Resistance, Hong Kong Society for Infectious Diseases. Date of access: 25 May 2015. <http://www.hksid.org/pdf/temp/ISAAR%202015%20program.pdf>.

¹²⁶¹ 6th Meeting of the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR), WHO 10 June 2015. Date of access: 16 June 2015.

http://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/antimicrobial-resistance/disclaimer_public_notice_comment_final.pdf.

Individual Mexican specialists as well as Mexican Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology supported the World Alliance Against Antibiotic Resistance declaration against antibiotic resistance.¹²⁶² The declaration advocates 10 actions aimed at adopting proactive strategies to preserve efficacy of antibiotics. These actions include promoting awareness of all the stakeholders of the threat represented by AMR; elaborating in each country a national plan for the containment of antibiotic resistance; development and implementation of new rapid, cost-effective and accurate diagnostic tests to aid in distinguishing bacterial and nonbacterial etiologies; and stimulating research of new drugs and vaccines.

The priority research areas indicated in the annual work program of Mexican National Institute of Public Health for 2015 include antimicrobial resistance.¹²⁶³

On 3 February 2015, during his visit to Tlaxcala state Mexican Minister of Health Mercedes Juan inaugurated new units of State Laboratory of Public Health.¹²⁶⁴ Medical equipment of new units will help to address health risks and strengthen epidemiological surveillance. A sum of USD2.9 million was allocated to expand the State Laboratory of Public Health areas of work by including molecular biology, epidemiology and bacterial control spheres. The laboratory will provide an opportunity to detect contagions such as HIV and rotavirus.

On 16 February 2015, new rules on adoption of biotech pharmaceuticals were approved,¹²⁶⁵ including the requirements on control of biotech pharmaceuticals production. According to new rules all biotech pharmaceuticals should be approved by Committee on New Molecules and Subcommittee on Evaluation of Biotech Products comprising of specialists and researchers in biotechnologies to test safety, quality and efficiency of new pharmaceuticals.

During the compliance period Mexico has taken steps aimed at fighting antimicrobial resistance in less than four out of five areas defined by the World Health Organization. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

In December 2014, an aid to Russia's Minister of Healthcare participated in the WHO high-level meeting on AMR in Stockholm, where the development of a Global Action Plan on AMR was discussed.¹²⁶⁶

¹²⁶² The WAAAR declaration against antibiotic resistance. June 2014. Date of assess: 23 February 2015.
<http://www.ac2bmr.fr/index.php/en/waaar-declaration>.

¹²⁶³ Programa anual del trabajo 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015.
http://www.insp.mx/images/stories/Planeacion/Docs/pi/141106_programaTrabajo2015.pdf.

¹²⁶⁴ Se refuerza la infraestructura sanitaria del país. 3 February 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015.
<http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/articulos-prensa/se-refuerza-la-infraestructura-sanitaria-del-pais/>.

¹²⁶⁵ COMUNICADO DE PRENSA No.096. 16 February 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015.
http://portal.salud.gob.mx/redirector?tipo=0&n_seccion=Boletines&seccion=2015-02-16_7465.html.

¹²⁶⁶ Meeting of the APEC Working Group on Healthcare 27 January 2015.
<http://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2015/01/27/2210-sostoyalos-zasedanie-rabochey-gruppy-po-zdravoohraneniyu-foruma-aziatsko-tihookeanskogo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva>.

In January 2015, representatives of the Ministry of Healthcare participated in the meeting of the APEC Working Group on Healthcare in Philippines. A special working plan for 2015 was adopted by the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum. Russia supported the need of developing a new strategic cooperation plan after 2016 and a roadmap on implementation of the Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020 initiative. Russia supported APEC economies' initiatives on universal health coverage and infectious diseases control, including AMR.¹²⁶⁷

On 11 March 2015, the Minister of Healthcare adopted an order creating a special position within the ministry — senior specialist on clinical microbiology and antimicrobial resistance.¹²⁶⁸

Russia has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in less than four out of five areas defined by the WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 2 January 2015, Muhammad bin Ali Alhayaza, Minister of Health, announced reshuffling leadership of the Command and Control Centre, and activating it to combat Corona virus, Ebola and others infectious diseases. The centre will undertake control of all infectious diseases and the early preparation for the protection against them.¹²⁶⁹ This action refers to strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, as well as strengthening infection control and prevention of risks.

On 3 December 2014, Adel Faqih, Acting Minister of Health, met with experts from WHO and the United States Centers for Disease Control to develop the responding to the risks of coronavirus. This comes within the framework of the ongoing cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the international health organizations aiming at combating coronavirus.¹²⁷⁰ This action refers to promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

On 16-18 May 2015, the Saudi Health Exhibition was held in Riyadh. The second session was on the microbes resisting antibiotics and discussed several important topics about the burden of antibiotic-resistant microbes, including a lecture on how to overcome antibiotics resistance and on the antibiotics management program.¹²⁷¹ This action is in line with fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools area defined by WHO.

On 1 February 2015 the Ministry of Health launched a three-month vaccination campaign against pneumococci. The PCV13 vaccine is secure and provides broader protection against the most

¹²⁶⁷ Meeting of the APEC Working Group on Healthcare 27 January 2015.

<http://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2015/01/27/2210-sostoyalos-zasedanie-rabochey-gruppy-po-zdravoohraneniyu-foruma-aziatsko-tihookeanskogo-ekonomicheskogo-sotrudnichestva>.

¹²⁶⁸ Russian Ministry of healthcare 11 March 2015. <http://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2015/03/11/2254-vneseny-izmeneniya-v-prikaz-o-glavnyh-vneshtatnyh-spetsialistah-minzdrava-rossii>.

¹²⁶⁹ Minister of Health Issues a Resolution to Transfer the CCC from Jeddah to the Ministry's Headquarter. Access date: 18 May 2015. <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2015-01-02-001.aspx>

¹²⁷⁰ Fruitful Cooperation between MOH, WHO, and CDC Targeting Control of MERS-CoV <http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2014-12-03-001.aspx>

¹²⁷¹ Saudi Health Exhibition. Access date: 18 May 2015.

<http://www.saudihealthexhibition.com/en/ConferenceZone/Conference-Programes/IPaCConference/Agenda/>

common and serious types than the previous vaccines due to antimicrobial resistance measures.¹²⁷² This action is in line with fostering innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics, infection treatment options and other tools area defined by WHO, and also with regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines especially among children.

During the compliance period Saudi Arabia has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

South Africa: +1

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

South Africa's Antimicrobial Resistance National Strategy Framework 2014-2024 provides for four objectives:

- Strengthen, coordinate and institutionalise interdisciplinary efforts;
- Optimize surveillance and early detection of antimicrobial resistance;
- Enhance infection control and prevention;
- Promote appropriate use of antimicrobials in human and animal health.¹²⁷³

During the compliance period South Africa has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance in four areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 19 November 2014, the Turkish Ministry of Health and the Istanbul Provincial Health Directory organized a symposium for medical and academic societies aimed at raising awareness on the misuse and overuse of antibiotics. Ali Alkan, representative of the Ministry of Health, said that there was an increasing consumption of antibiotics between 2007 and 2013, and the government had taken measures to promote their adequate use to avoid stronger resistance.¹²⁷⁴ Thus, Turkey took actions in regulating and promoting appropriate use of medicines.

On 15 April 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced measures taken by Turkey to help fight the Ebola outbreak. These include delivering medical supplies worth TRY2.5 million to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, and granting grant USD1 to the mechanism established by the African Union to support the fight against the Ebola virus (Africa Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West

¹²⁷² MOH to Launch Pneumococcal Vaccinations Campaign for Children. Access date: 18 May 2015.

<http://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2015-01-29-001.aspx>

¹²⁷³ Antimicrobial Resistance, Department of Health of South Africa 10 October 2014.. Date of Access: 29 April 2015.

<http://www.fundisa-academy.com/downloads/New-Anti-infective-Drugs-AMR-10Oct2014-G-Steel.pdf>.

¹²⁷⁴ Turkey leads Europe in antibiotics consumption, Anadolu Agency 19 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 April 2015.

<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/health/423181--turkey-leads-europe-in-antibiotics-consumption>.

Africa, ASEOWA).¹²⁷⁵ Thus, Turkey took actions in strengthening resistance tracking and laboratory capacity, as well as strengthening infection control and prevention.

On 23 April 2015, Minister of Health Mehmet Müezzinoğlu participated in the World Malaria Day in Saudi Arabia, organized in the cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank. One of the goals of this event was delivering the Turkish experience in implementing its “Malaria Elimination Program.”¹²⁷⁶ Thus, Turkey took actions in promoting cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

Turkey has acted to fight AMR in four areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 2 September 2013, the UK Department of Health published the Five-Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018, providing for actions in all five areas defined by WHO.¹²⁷⁷

According to the annual progress report and implementation plan published on 11 December 2014, progress has been achieved on all action areas defined in the Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy.¹²⁷⁸ In particular, the Public Health England (PHE) established a new system enabling hospital laboratories that submit data on resistance to PHE to interrogate their own local data. PHE also contributes data on antibiotic resistance and prescribing to pan-European surveillance, and works with WHO to support development of a Global Action Plan to tackle antibiotic resistance.¹²⁷⁹

The United Kingdom has taken actions to fight AMR in five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

¹²⁷⁵ No: 116, 15 April 2015, Press Release Regarding the Turkey's Assistance for the Struggle Against Ebola Virus Outbreak, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015.

http://www.mfa.gov.tr/no_-116_-15-april-2015_-press-release-regarding-the-turkey_s-assistance-for-the-struggle-against-ebola-virus-outbreak.en.mfa.

¹²⁷⁶ Müezzinoğlu, "Dünya Sıtma Günü" Etkinliğine Katıldı, the Ministry of Health of the Turkish Republic 23 April 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR/belge/1-39905/muezzinoglu-dunya-sitma-gunu-etkinligine-katildi.html>.

¹²⁷⁷ UK Five Year Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2013 to 2018, UK Government 2 September 2013. Access date: 17 April 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/244058/20130902_UK_5_year_AMR_strategy.pdf.

¹²⁷⁸ UK 5 Year Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy 2013–2018. Annual progress report and implementation plan, 2014, UK Government 11 December 2014. Access date: 17 April 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/385733/UK_AMR_annual_report.pdf

¹²⁷⁹ PHE leading initiatives on surveillance and the evaluation of antibiotics, UK Government 5 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/phe-leading-initiatives-on-surveillance-and-the-evaluation-of-antibiotics>.

On 23 March 2015, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced USD31 million arrangement with Emergent BioSolutions Inc. that will develop an improved anthrax vaccine to provide protection in fewer doses and with lower costs than currently used vaccine.¹²⁸⁰ This action fosters innovation and research and development of new vaccines.

On 27 March 2015, the White House released the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria. The aims of the plan by 2020 include creating detect network of antibiotic resistance regional laboratories, improving international cooperation and capacities for antibiotic resistance prevention and control, supporting research and development for new antibiotics and other drugs, as well as vaccines, reducing the inappropriate antibiotic use and eliminating the use of medically important antibiotics for growth stimulation in animals.¹²⁸¹ Thus, this action contributes to all five areas defined by WHO.

On 31 March 2015, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the US Department of Health and Human Services granted USD12 million to BioCryst Pharmaceuticals to develop a promising experimental medicine for Ebola.¹²⁸² This action fosters innovation and research and development of new vaccines.

During the period under review, the United States has taken steps to fight AMR in all five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on health. It has taken actions to fight antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in five areas defined by the World Health Organization (WHO).

On 17 November 2014, the new aid was announced by Christos Stylianides, EU Ebola Coordinator and Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response. New funding of USD36 million was made by the European Commission to fight Ebola including improvement of local health facilities and provision of early detection and public awareness measures in the affected countries.¹²⁸³ These measures will strengthen infection control and prevention.

On 18 November 2014, the European Commission confirmed USD199 million funding for a multisectoral research program until 2020 to address Ebola-related challenges such as vaccines development, clinical trials, storage and transport, as well as diagnostics and treatments to tackle Ebola. The European Commission also announced that the first projects are expected to begin in early 2015. These projects will assess the safety of several potential vaccines and the level of

¹²⁸⁰ HHS seeks to develop improved anthrax vaccine, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 29 April 2015. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/03/20150323a.html>.

¹²⁸¹ Fact Sheet: Obama Administration Releases National Action Plan to Combat Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria, The White House 27 March 2015. Date of Access: 5 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/03/27/fact-sheet-obama-administration-releases-national-action-plan-combat-ant>.

¹²⁸² HHS contracts to develop new Ebola drug, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 31 March 2015. Date of Access: 29 April 2015. <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2015pres/03/20150331a.html>.

¹²⁸³ EU boosts anti-Ebola aid after Commissioners' mission to worst-hit countries, European Commission 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-1862_en.htm

protection they offer against the disease.¹²⁸⁴ These measures will foster innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics and infection treatment options.

To stop the Ebola epidemic from spreading further, mobile laboratories for early detection of the virus are deployed by the European Union in the affected region. For example, on 4 December 2014, one more mobile laboratory was deployed to Guinea with support of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.¹²⁸⁵ These measures will strengthen laboratory capacity.

On 26 February 2015, the European Commission also published a progress report on its five-year Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance adopted in 2011. Among the new measures there is the commitment of the European Commission to develop a strategic approach to the pollution of water by pharmaceuticals by September 2015. There is also confirmed the commitment of the European Commission to fund USD28 million for HIV vaccine research in 2015.¹²⁸⁶ These measures will foster innovation and research and development of new vaccines, diagnostics and infection treatment options.

On 26 February 2015, the European Commission announced a USD1.1 million prize to the person or team that develops a rapid test to tell whether a patient needs to be treated with antibiotics or not. The aim of this prize was to stop overuse of antibiotics and prevent the growing antimicrobial resistance.¹²⁸⁷ These measures will help to regulate appropriate use of medicines.

On 2 April 2015, the European Parliament published the draft report “Safer Healthcare in Europe: Improving Patient Safety and Fighting Antimicrobial Resistance.” The first reading of the document was planned on 18 May 2015.¹²⁸⁸ The document contains a wide range of measures including regulating and promoting appropriate use of antibiotics, launching awareness campaigns on the rational use of antibiotics, engaging in a dialogue with all stakeholders and develop a EU strategy for patient safety.¹²⁸⁹ These measures will help to regulate appropriate use of medicines and promote cooperation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

During the compliance period the European Union has taken actions to fight AMR in five areas defined by WHO. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

¹²⁸⁴ The European Union's response to Ebola emergency, European Commission 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-14-1903_en.htm

¹²⁸⁵ EU Ebola Response: Member States send additional health personnel to the region, European Commission 6 December 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-2440_en.htm

¹²⁸⁶ Progress report on the Action plan against the rising threats from Antimicrobial Resistance, European Commission 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/antimicrobial_resistance/docs/2015_amr_progress_report_en.pdf

¹²⁸⁷ Antimicrobial Resistance: Commission launches a €1 million prize and publishes a progress report of its Action Plan, European Commission 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-15-4514_en.htm

¹²⁸⁸ 2014/2207(INI) Safer healthcare in Europe: improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance, European Parliament Date of Access: 18 April 2015. [http://parltrack.euwiki.org/dossier/2014/2207\(INI\)](http://parltrack.euwiki.org/dossier/2014/2207(INI))

¹²⁸⁹ Draft report on Safer healthcare in Europe: Improving patient safety and fighting antimicrobial resistance, European Parliament 2 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FNONGML%2BCOMPARL%2BPE-549.124%2B01%2BDOC%2BPDF%2BV0%2F%2FEN>

12. Gender

“We agree to the goal of reducing the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women in our countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances. This will bring more than 100 million women into the labour force [and] significantly increase global growth.”

G20 Brisbane Action Plan

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China	-1		
France			+1
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia	-1		
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa	-1		
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union	Not applicable		
Average Score	+0.11		

Background

The 2014 Brisbane Summit marks the first time G20 members declared a goal with a specific timeline to reduce the inequality in the labour force between men and women. The first time women were explicitly mentioned during a summit, however, was at the 2009 London Summit when G20 members committed to encouraging a “fair and family-friendly labour market for both women and men.”¹²⁹⁰ The 2012 Los Cabos Summit then marked the first year an entire commitment targeted the improvement of the socioeconomic status of women.

Around the world, the labour force continues to grow faster than the number of jobs created. Over the last year, in “Indonesia, for example, the number of formal jobs grew by only 2.8 million, while the labor force increased by 7.2 million.”¹²⁹¹ The International Labour Organisation (ILO), in its

¹²⁹⁰ G20 Leaders Statement: London Summit, 2-3 April 2009. Date of Access: 4 February 2015.
<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-09-london.html>

¹²⁹¹ G20 Leaders Pledge Inclusive Growth for Women: More Promises or Real Possibility?, The Asian Foundation (San Francisco) 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 3 February 2015.

World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2015, notes that “by 2019, more than 212 million people will be out of work, up from 201 million now.”¹²⁹² Gender-specific inclusive growth policies in the labour markets are therefore indispensable in reversing the current trends.

Currently, on a global scale, 40% of the workforce is composed of women.¹²⁹³ One third of all registered enterprises are owned by women, despite the multiple barriers they face, such as access to finance and business exclusion.¹²⁹⁴ It is now common knowledge that increasing women’s participation in the labour force contributes to both economic growth and national prosperity, especially if inequality is reduced. It is estimated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that “a boost to women’s participation of [the scale of the commitment] would increase G20 GDP [gross domestic product] by between 1.2 and 1.6% by 2025, adding more than USD1 trillion to the global economy.”¹²⁹⁵ The OECD further notes, “that if we close the global gap in workforce participation between men and women, GDP worldwide would grow by nearly 12% by 2030.”¹²⁹⁶

By introducing a commitment that is specifically dedicated to women, the G20 members are reaffirming the importance of the inclusion of women in the labour markets as an imperative to the improvement of the global economic balance and labour market.

Commitment Features

According to the OECD, the while the “female employment rates have increased in most countries” since the year 2000, reaching “60% or more in half of the G20 countries, ... [the] gender employment gaps remain larger than 10 percentage points in 15 of the G20 countries.”¹²⁹⁷

It must be acknowledged that this particular commitment is aimed at the long term. Nonetheless, for full compliance, G20 members must set concrete policies and amend laws aimed at reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in their respective countries by 25% by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, as to bring more than 100 million women in the labour force.

For the purpose of this commitment, the labour participation rate will be defined as follows:

<http://asiafoundation.org/in-asia/2014/12/03/g20-leaders-pledge-inclusive-growth-for-women-more-promises-or-real-possibility/>

¹²⁹² Global unemployment to rise to 212 million, says ILO, *The Guardian* (London) 19 January 2015. Date of Access: 4 February 2015.

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/jan/19/global-unemployment-rising-ilo-social-unrest>

¹²⁹³ 2014 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion 2 September 2014. Date of Access: 2 February 2015.

https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2014_g20_financial_inclusion_action_plan.pdf

¹²⁹⁴ Banking on Women, International Financial Corporation (Washington) 2014.

¹²⁹⁵ G20 Leaders Agree To Reduce Gender Employment GAP, Prime Minister of Australia (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 3 February 2015.

<https://www.pm.gov.au/media/2014-11-16/g20-leaders-agree-reduce-gender-employment-gap>

¹²⁹⁶ Unfinished Business for the world’s women, *The Economist* (London) 5 November 2014. Date of Access: 23 January 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/21631962-anniversary-landmark-un-conference-women-opportunity-renew-its-vision-says>

¹²⁹⁷ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting (Melbourne) 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 13 February 2015.

<http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>

A measure of the proportion of a country's working-age population that engages actively in the labour market, either by working or looking for work; it provides an indication of the size of the supply of labour available to engage in the production of goods and services, relative to the population at working age.¹²⁹⁸

In an effort to effectively measure the progress pertaining to this commitment within each individual country, it will be imperative to determine the national baselines. National baselines will include the following components: 1) the current female participation rate, 2) the current male participation rate, and 3) the estimation of the percentage of women who are excluded from the formal labour market as to determine the gap.

Furthermore, each report will assess the problems that women face when entering the labour market specific to their country and, accordingly evaluate whether the concerned government is taking actions to reduce these barriers. The reports will take note of the 10 following policy aspects taken from OECD recommendations and ILO conventions:¹²⁹⁹

- a) "Adopt practices that promote gender equality in education"¹³⁰⁰
- b) "Promote family-friendly policies and working conditions which enable fathers and mothers to balance their working hours and their family responsibilities and facilitate women to participate more in private and public sector employment"¹³⁰¹
- c) "Increase the representation of women in decision-making positions"¹³⁰²
- d) "Eliminate the discriminatory gender wage gap"¹³⁰³
- e) "Promote all appropriate measures to end sexual harassment in the workplace, including awareness and prevention campaigns and actions by employers and unions"
- f) "Reduce the gender gap in entrepreneurship activity"¹³⁰⁴
- g) "Pay attention to the special needs of women from disadvantaged minority groups and migrant women in relation to the aims set out above"
- h) "Reduce the gender gap in financial literacy"¹³⁰⁵

¹²⁹⁸ Labour Force Participation Rate, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 2014. Date of Access: 3 February 2015. <http://kilm.ilo.org/2011/download/kilm01EN.pdf>

¹²⁹⁹ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting (Melbourne) 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 13 February 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>

¹³⁰⁰ For more specific policy angles, please refer to Annex 2 of "Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting"

¹³⁰¹ For more specific policy angles, please refer to Annex 2 of "Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting"

¹³⁰² For more specific policy angles, please refer to Annex 2 of "Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting"

¹³⁰³ "by strengthening the legal framework and its enforcement for combating all forms of discrimination in pay, recruitment, training and promotion; promoting pay transparency; ensuring that the principle of equal pay for equal work or for work of equal value is respected in collective bargaining and/or labour law and practice; tackling stereotypes, segregation and indirect discrimination in the labour market, notably against part-time workers; promoting the reconciliation of work and family life"

¹³⁰⁴ For more specific policy angles, please refer to Annex 2 of "Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting"

¹³⁰⁵ "by developing and implementing initiatives and programmes aimed at addressing women's financial literacy needs, and in particular at fostering their awareness, confidence, competencies and skills when dealing with financial issues"

- i) “Mainstream the gender equality perspective in the design, development and evaluation of relevant policies and budgets”¹³⁰⁶
- j) “Strengthen accountability mechanisms for gender equality and mainstreaming initiatives across and within government bodies.”

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member country does not have adequate information on women in the labour force AND did not take actions to improve the information or associated policies
0	Member country has reported the appropriate information on women in the labour force BUT has not taken strong and/or sufficient actions to increase women’s participation in the labour force
+1	Member country has appropriate information on women in the labour force AND has taken strong or/and sufficient actions to increase women’s participation in the labour force

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitment in reducing the gender gap between men and women in the labour market. This failure is a consequence of Argentina’s inability to increase the participation rates of women in the global labour force.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Argentina the female labour participation consists of 48%¹³⁰⁷ and the male labour participation gap consists of 75%.¹³⁰⁸ Therefore the labour participation gap is 27%. A recent publication by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development confirmed that in 2012, the female level of informal employment is 49.6%. The gender gap in the incidence of informal unemployment is hence 0.2%.¹³⁰⁹ According to the Gender Gap Index 2014, Argentina ranks 31 out of 142 countries.¹³¹⁰

Argentina has failed to take further action regarding the promotion of increased female employment during this compliance cycle. Thus, Argentina is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Allison Ing

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce the gender gap between men and women in the labour market. Recent promises have been made by the government that will work towards dismantling barriers prohibiting women from entering the labour force, as well as to

¹³⁰⁶ “for example by conducting systematic gender-impact assessments and generating appropriate data and evidence to build a benchmark for future assessments as well as a compilation of best practices for governments and government agencies”

¹³⁰⁷ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.
<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁰⁸ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.
<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹³⁰⁹ Indicators on male and female labour outcomes, Achieving stronger growth promoting a more gender-balanced economy, OECD, ILO, IMF, World Bank Group (Melbourne) 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.
<http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>. Data refer to 2009.

¹³¹⁰ Economies: Argentina, The Global Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.
<http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=ARG>.

improve social services to support working women. However, the country has failed to meet goals in reducing the gender gap of labour force participation.

As of January 2015, female participation in the labour force in Australia is 58.6%, while male participation averages at 71%, with roughly one million more men working than females.¹³¹¹ This means that female participation rate is 12.4% lower than men.

As of early February 2015, Prime Minister Tony Abbott announced the development of a family policy and package that would focus on childcare.¹³¹² In the 2015-16 Budget, the government announced a Families Package that included a range of child care measures to make child care simpler, more affordable, flexible and accessible. From 1 July 2017, the government will provide a child care subsidy of up to 85 per cent of a family's childcare fees. This subsidy rate tapers gradually to 50 per cent as a family's annual income approaches AUD 170,000. The subsidy replaces the complex child care fee assistance system currently in place. The government will also spend around AUD 250 million on a Home Care (Nannies) Pilot. The pilot project is expected to fund around 4,000 nannies, providing subsidised care to approximately 10,000 children.

While gender wages inequality is a widespread issue in Australia, there is an increasing awareness of the issue among employment sectors. After a survey conducted regarding the study of gender pay inequality, it was shown that the financial and insurance sectors have an increasing number of surveys on the issue from 2014. As of 2015, 66.3% of financial and insurance businesses are planning to conduct surveys to assess the pay gap. Professional, scientific, and technical organizations are also increasing the percentage of surveys conducted to 66.3%. Agriculture, forestry and fishing show a relatively low number of organizations surveyed on the subject. While this may not seem like immediate action, it does represent the acknowledgement of the issue on a professional and business level. Increased surveys on gender pay gaps will increase awareness of the issue in government as well as in industries, creating new dialogue and promoting gender equality.

While Australia is making strong commitments to improving gender equality in the economy, the country is still facing significant gaps in areas such as pay inequality. Therefore, Australia is rewarded a 0 for partial efforts.

Analyst: Dana Cranhall-Duk

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reduce the gap in participation rates between men and women in the labour force by 25% by 2025.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Brazil the female labour participation rate is 59% (a decrease of 1% from the year before).¹³¹³ The male participation rate is 81%.¹³¹⁴ Therefore the gender labour participation is 22%.

¹³¹¹ Population by Age and Sex, Australia, States and Territories, Australian Bureau of Statistics, December 2014. Date of Access: February 24 2015.

¹³¹² Federal Government Promises to Focus on Childcare, BPW Australia (Loganholme) February 15 2015. Date of Access: February 23 2015. <http://www.bpw.com.au/>

¹³¹³ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³¹⁴ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

On 16 December 2014, the Department of Policies for Women (SPM) published the fifth edition of the Equality of Gender and Race Program. The SPM will disseminate concepts in management to achieve equality between men and women in the workplace. Participating companies will be educated on how to overcome inequality of pay and trained in effective management. After completion in the program, the firm will receive the Seal of Equality of Gender and Race. By promoting equality within the work environment, the program hopes to encourage women to enter the labour force.¹³¹⁵

On 23 January 2015, the government of the State of São Paulo announced its commitment to “Decent Work.” Established by the International Labour Organization, Decent Work promotes equal pay between individuals of varying gender, race, and nationality. Decent Work also promotes sustainability, equitable wealth distribution, and overcoming poverty.¹³¹⁶

On 11 January 2015, a special committee of the House of Representatives approved the “Status of Early Childhood” or Bill 6.998/2013. The bill extended maternal leave from 120 days to 180 days, at the employer’s discretion. Additionally, the bill extended paternal leave from five to 20 days.¹³¹⁷ The bill also contained other childcare initiatives that would encourage women’s participation in the labour force.¹³¹⁸ However, as of 26 January 2015, the Early Childhood Bill has been postponed indefinitely. Due to recent elections, many of the original signatories of the bill were not re-elected to the House of Representatives. Consequently, the law will no longer proceed directly to the Senate.

On 30 January 2015, the Department of Employment and Labour Relations announced that the Time of Employment program would expand in 2015 to accommodate 1,115 participants. The program engages primarily female Brazilians who are at least 16-years-old in interview preparation and job market coaching.¹³¹⁹

On 28 January 2015, the Ministry of Agrarian Development announced that officials would travel to the northern rural regions of Brazil, enabling women to receive free documentation. The Ministry will begin to document 9,000 women in 29 municipalities in March 2015. The free documentation will promote women’s autonomy through productive inclusion. Furthermore, women will have access to the public policies of the federal government.¹³²⁰

On 4 February 2015, 500 teachers completed training in a pilot program on “socioeducation.” The teachers, who were primarily female, received specialized training in working with adolescent

¹³¹⁵ Equality of Gender and Race Program - 5th Edition (Brasília) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.spm.gov.br/assuntos/mulher-e-trabalho/programa-pro-equidade-de-genero-e-raca>.

¹³¹⁶ The Effective Inclusion (São Paulo) 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015.

<http://www.emploio.sp.gov.br/pela-efetiva-inclusao/>.

¹³¹⁷ Paternity Leave Can be Extended to 20 Days, Estado de Minas (Belo Horizonte) 11 January 2015. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. http://www.em.com.br/app/noticia/nacional/2015/01/11/interna_nacional,606810/licenca-paternidade-pode-ser-ampliada-para-20-dias.shtml.

¹³¹⁸ Members Try to Delay the Early Childhood Bill, Examination Magazine (Brasília) 26 January 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015.

<http://exame.abril.com.br/brasil/noticias/deputados-tentam-atrasar-projeto-de-lei-da-primeira-infancia>

¹³¹⁹ Growing, Employment Team Offers 1,115 Jobs (São Paulo) 30 January 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015.

<http://www.emploio.sp.gov.br/em-crescimento-time-do-emprego-oferece-1115-vagas/>.

¹³²⁰ Boats Will Take Documentation Task Forces to Over 9,000 Rural Women (Brasília) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/cidadania-e-justica/2015/01/lanchas-levarao-muitos-de-documentacao-a-mais-de-9-mil-mulheres-rurais>.

offenders.¹³²¹ This pilot program has the potential to provide employment for many women in the future.

On 16-17 February 2015, Brazil attended the 38th Board of Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. At the conference, Brazil pledged to continue programs in rural regions to enable women to have access to credit and land tenure.¹³²²

Despite difficulty with implementing major policy, Brazil has successfully implemented smaller policies. Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Sarah Sgambelluri

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to reduce barriers preventing women from entering into the labour participation market.

At the time of the Brisbane Summit, Canada's rate of women's participation at the labour force stood at 61.6% nationally, compared to 70.6% for men; thus representing a gender gap of 9%.¹³²³ Women also have a lower employment rate as "the employment rate of women aged 15 and over was 57.3% compared to 65.5%."¹³²⁴

According to the 2014 economic security fact sheet provided by the government of Canada, women represented nearly 70% of all part-time workers in 2013. Women are also more likely to have "casual work (i.e., hours that vary from one week to the next)."¹³²⁵ This means "women's average annual earning [are] ... approximately 71% of men's."¹³²⁶ Furthermore, "when factoring gender differences in industry, occupation, education, age, job tenure, province of residence, marital status, and union status, women's annual wages amounted to 92% of men's in 2011."¹³²⁷

Canada has committed to reducing its barriers to women's participation in the labour force through programs aimed at providing skilled trades training and investing in traditionally male-dominated fields, such as science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the woodworking industry, to ensure more participation of women.¹³²⁸ Most recently, the Status of Women Ministry has given

¹³²¹ Course Prepares Teachers to Work with Socioeducation (Brasília) 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/educacao/2015/02/curso-prepara-professores-para-trabalhar-com-socioeducacao>.

¹³²² Brazil Defends Sustainable Rural Development in Meeting the IFAD (São Paulo) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.planejamento.gov.br/conteudo.asp?p=noticia&ler=12049>.

¹³²³ Labour force, employment and unemployment, levels and rates, by province, Statistics Canada (Ottawa) 28 January 2015. Date of Access: 06 March 2015.

<http://www.statcan.gc.ca/tables-tableaux/sum-som/l01/cst01/labor07a-eng.htm>

¹³²⁴ Status of Women in Canada, Fact sheet: Economic Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa). Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/initiatives/wesp-sepf/fs-fi/es-se-eng.html>

¹³²⁵ Status of Women in Canada, Fact sheet: Economic Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa). Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/initiatives/wesp-sepf/fs-fi/es-se-eng.html>

¹³²⁶ Status of Women in Canada, Fact sheet: Economic Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa). Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/initiatives/wesp-sepf/fs-fi/es-se-eng.html>

¹³²⁷ Status of Women in Canada, Fact sheet: Economic Security, Government of Canada (Ottawa). Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/initiatives/wesp-sepf/fs-fi/es-se-eng.html>

¹³²⁸ Harper Government supports mentoring opportunities for women across Canada in skilled and professional trades, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa), February 12, 2015. Date of access: March 06, 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/med/news-nouvelles/2015/0212-eng.html>

CAD258 million to the woodworking industry in Vancouver to ensure increased participation of women through mentorship.¹³²⁹

To address the other commitments, it is necessary to evaluate Canada's starting position at the time of the 2014 Summit and recognize that, at this time, all laws contradicting gender equality have been struck down; furthermore, constitutional provisions for gender equality exist in the constitution (section 15) and in provincial human rights Codes. However, the Status of Women Ministry has identified that, while those laws exist in theory, women are still under-represented in many areas, and has committed to creating jobs and opportunities for women across the country to correct this discrepancy.¹³³⁰

Finally, Canada's current laws state that women are entitled to 35 weeks to maternity benefits, as well as an equivalent amount of maternity leave from their employment, under the Employment Insurance program.¹³³¹ While this provision is guarded by law, there have not been changes or improvements since 2014.

On 4 March 2015, the Parkland Institute is an Alberta-wide, non-partisan research centre published a report discussing the gender income gaps in Canada; particularly in Alberta where "gender income gaps ... are the largest in Canada ... [and women] perform an average of 35 hours of unpaid work each week." The report extends further to note that "this unpaid work burden compels many women in Alberta to seek part-time, flexible work arrangements, and a lack of affordable childcare spaces in the province is an additional barrier to women's participation in the paid workforce."¹³³²

Thus, Canada is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Daryna Kutsyna

China: -1

China has failed to comply with its commitment to close the gap in participation rates between men and women and remove barriers hindering women's ability to participate in the labour market.

As of 28 October 2014, the female labour force participation rate was 70%, compared to a male participation rate of 84%.¹³³³ The labour participation gap is therefore 14%. Furthermore, the informal labour market female participation rate was 35.7%, compared to a male participation rate of

¹³²⁹ Harper Government supports mentoring opportunities for women across Canada in skilled and professional trades, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa), February 12, 2015. Date of access: March 06, 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/med/news-nouvelles/2015/0212-eng.html>

¹³³⁰ Harper Government supports economic opportunities for women, Status of Women Canada (Ottawa), March 02, 2015. Date of access: March 06, 2015. <http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/med/news-nouvelles/2015/0302-en.html>

⁶Employment Insurance Maternity and Parental Benefits, Service Canada (Ottawa), 21 November 2014. Date of access: 06 March 2015. http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/types/maternity_parental.shtml#eligible

¹³³² The Alberta Disadvantage Gender, Taxation, and Income Inequality, Parkland Institute (Alberta) 4 March 2015. Date of Access: 11 March 2015. http://parklandinstitute.ca/research/summary/the_alberta_disadvantage

¹³³³ China Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=CHN>.

30.1%.¹³³⁴ The average estimated annual income for women in China is USD8499, compared to USD13247 for men.¹³³⁵ The female-to-male ratio of wages for similar work is 0.63.¹³³⁶

According to the World Economic Forum, the average length of maternity leave is 98 days, with 100% of wages paid in the covered period by the employer and the government.¹³³⁷ While wages for paternity leave were also covered 100%, only three days were allowed. Furthermore, instead of a joint provision of benefits with government, benefit delivery is the responsibility of employers.¹³³⁸

On 13 January 2015, Vice-President Li Yuanchao delivered a keynote speech at the 11th Executive Committee Meeting of the All-China Women's Federation praising the work of women's federations at all levels across the country.¹³³⁹

On 22 January 2015, a 0.5% increase in formal female committee members was reported after villagers committee elections in the new year.¹³⁴⁰

On 11 February 2015, it was announced that China's first-ever women's marathon will be held in Shenzhen city on International Women's Day in efforts to raise awareness for women's health and poverty issues.¹³⁴¹

On 15 February 2015, the Ministry of Education released a notice banning colleges from implementing gender ratios during enrolment, advancing the cause of gender equality in education.¹³⁴² However, no steps were taken to enforce the ban.

Despite these positive developments in gender equality, no specific policy changes were registered to address employment opportunity inequality, with exception of the mention of a college enrolment gender ratio ban, during this compliance cycle. Thus, China is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Grace Lee

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to increasing the gender participation rate of women.

¹³³⁴ Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture, International Labour Organization 3 January 2013. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---stat/documents/publication/wcms_234413.pdf.

¹³³⁵ China Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=CHN>.

¹³³⁶ China Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=CHN>

¹³³⁷ China Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=CHN>.

¹³³⁸ China Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=CHN>.

¹³³⁹ China Vice President Praises ACWF'S Achievements in 2014, China Women's News 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/china/1501/1209-1.htm>.

¹³⁴⁰ Women See Increased Role in Political Participation across China, acwf.people.com.cn 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/china/1501/1767-1.htm>.

¹³⁴¹ China's First Women's Marathon to Kick Off in Shenzhen, news.21cn.com 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/news/sports/1502/841-1.htm>.

¹³⁴² China Bans Student Gender Ratio in College Enrolment, Beijing Times 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://www.womenofchina.cn/womenofchina/html1/features/education/1502/1242-1.htm>.

According to statistics provided by the World Bank, the labour force participation of women in France stands at 51%,¹³⁴³ as compared to the 62% participation of men.¹³⁴⁴ The gender labour participation gap consists of 11%. This gender gap has consistently narrowed in recent years.¹³⁴⁵

In December 2014, in an effort to reduce pay inequalities,¹³⁴⁶ France introduced contractual provisions requiring businesses to provide maternity and other provisions to women to prevent career derailment, as well as further mandating an equal salary.¹³⁴⁷ However, France has also reported that women currently earn 0.75EUR to a man's Euro, and has indicated no provisions extending further than requiring gender parity among certain enterprises to correct for that inequality.¹³⁴⁸

In late 2014, a government conference indicated that in France over 80% of professional women have been victims of sexism and the conference proposed measures to combat workplace sexism. However there is no current evidence that these measures have been put in place in a tangible manner.¹³⁴⁹ Sexism in the workforce puts further strain on women and creates a toxic working environment.

On 8 March 2015, on International Women's Day, the government of France publicized a report highlighting the benefits of a more equal workforce and of more women creating enterprises, including decreases in unemployment and placing a lower strain of social services.¹³⁵⁰ However, it is hard to ascertain if this information was further shared with relevant stakeholders, as no evidence of such a transaction of information is present.

The steps taken to introduce contractual provisions requiring businesses to provide maternity and other provisions to women to prevent career derailment, as well as further mandating an equal salary are a solid enough step forward in the right direction. It is however worth noting that although France has recommended potential initiatives to reduce pay and industry inequality, as well as

¹³⁴³ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁴⁴ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹³⁴⁵ Profile of France, International Labour Organization (United Nations), 2014. Date of Access: March 14, 2015. http://www.ilo.org/ilostat/faces/home/statisticaldata/ContryProfileId.jsessionid=JvSsVFnQ3MjMQnQtQj44th7XyLQ7ZtzC2FMsrWZr7r2sMb6QhYzh!-140318373?_afLoop=433601028339563&_adf.ctrl-state=18ufy5e2vc_4#%40%3F_afLoop%3D433601028339563%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D2we1qf2jl_4

¹³⁴⁶ France has legislated equal pay for equal work provisions in 1972, but a substantial wage gap remains in practice, measured to widen as the workforce gets older on average. Further, gender inequality persists in particular industries, with twenty-four major industries in France, including technology, finance, and medicine, boasting a male-dominated workforce.

Equal Pay Legislation and the Gender Wage Gap, IZA World of Labour (Birmingham), 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015. <http://wol.iza.org/articles/equal-pay-legislation-and-the-gender-wage-gap>

8 mars : journée internationale des droits des femmes, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la formation professionnelle and du Dialogue social (Paris), March 8, 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015.

¹³⁴⁷ 8 mars : journée internationale des droits des femmes, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la formation professionnelle and du Dialogue social (Paris), March 8, 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015.

¹³⁴⁸ 8 mars : journée internationale des droits des femmes, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la formation professionnelle and du Dialogue social (Paris), March 8, 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015.

¹³⁴⁹ Sexisme dans le monde du travail: combattre le loi de silence, Ministère des Affaires Sociales, de la Santé, et des Droits des Femmes (Paris), March 6, 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015.

<http://femmes.gouv.fr/sexisme-dans-le-monde-du-travail-combattre-la-loi-du-silence/>

¹³⁵⁰ 8 mars : journée internationale des droits des femmes, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi, de la formation professionnelle and du Dialogue social (Paris), March 8, 2015. Date of Access: March 14, 2015.

intangible gender issues such as workplace sexism, there is no evidence present to indicate that any measures have been put in practice. Thus, France is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Daryna Kutsyna

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment on improving gender equality.

The most recent statistics of the World Bank indicate that the female labour participation rate consists of 54%¹³⁵¹ and the male labour participation rate is 66%.¹³⁵² The gender labour participation gap is therefore 12%. Furthermore, “almost half of working women were in part-time employment, but only one in nine working men ... [which means that women’s] share of work volume remained lower—at around 40%.”¹³⁵³ On 30 January 2015, a press release notes that the female participation rate in Germany has increased by 10% over the last decade and a half (while that of men increased by only 1% during the same period).

On 11 December 2014, the German cabinet adopted legislation that introduced a quota that requires all non-executive board positions of domestic companies to be made up of 30% women.¹³⁵⁴

Currently, the federal government is composed of 40% women and Angela Merkel who holds the chancellor position.¹³⁵⁵ This puts Germany 21st in the world rankings of women in national parliaments and one of the highest rankings of the G20.¹³⁵⁶

However, several challenges for female participation in the labour force still remain. The incentives were non-legal measures (such as a re-entry programme, to facilitate a better re-entry after a family phase and a voluntary tool to test the gender equality in the company) and their impact was not strong enough. Therefore, the government intends to create legal incentives regarding the transparency of income structures for 2016.

The steps taken to increase women’s inclusion in senior management and public positions are a step in the right direction. Thus, Germany is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sophie Jackson

¹³⁵¹ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁵² Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹³⁵³ Women Catching Up in German Labor Market - Participation Rate Rising Faster Than That of Men, Press Release, Date of Access: 8 March 2015.

http://www.diw.de/en/diw_01.c.495875.en/topics_news/women_catching_up_in_german_labor_market_participation_rate_rising_faster_than_that_of_men.html.

¹³⁵⁴ Germany to legislate 30 percent quota for women on company boards, DW News 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.dw.de/germany-to-legislate-30-percent-quota-for-women-on-company-boards/a-18088840>

¹³⁵⁵ Seats held by women in national parliament 27 October 2014. Date of Access: 27 February 2015.

<http://data.un.org/Data.aspx?d=MDG&f=seriesRowID%3A557>.

¹³⁵⁶ Women in National Parliaments 1 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 February 2015. <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>.

India: -1

India has failed to address the serious concerns that come with a declining female labour force participation rate, and no steps as of yet to address informal employment among women, or cultural barriers limiting Indian women from entering the work place.

The female labour force participation rate in India as of 2013 is 27%, a decrease from previous years.¹³⁵⁷ The male labour force participation rate is much higher at 80%.¹³⁵⁸ There is gap in labour force participation of 50.1 points.¹³⁵⁹ Furthermore, “female labor force participation has been on a declining trend in India, in contrast to most other regions, particularly since 2004/05.”¹³⁶⁰

Since 2012, approximately 86% of female employment in India has been informal, where there are no maternity, health or childcare benefits.¹³⁶¹ Currently, India does have a maternity benefit program in place, which guarantees the “payment of maternity benefit at the rate of the average daily wage for the period of her actual absence.”¹³⁶² However, India does not have any program of shared paternal leave in place, which could help women become more involved in the workforce. In India, there is no leave, paid or unpaid, for fathers at all.¹³⁶³

On 23 February 2015, at the budget session, Indian President Pranab Mukherjee addressed some issues related to female underrepresentation in the labour force. He listed the decline in the child sex ratio as a grave concern, and listed a commitment to improve the police force, and to include female police personnel.¹³⁶⁴ Despite recognising the magnitude of the problems with gender in India no extensive measures were mentioned to ensure better formal labour force participation rates.

During this compliance cycle, India has demonstrated a high gender gap in labour participation between men and women and a lack of an action plan or concrete action to reduce this. Thus, India is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Madeline Torrie

¹³⁵⁷ Labor force participation rate, female, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 10 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁵⁸ Labor force participation rate, female, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 10 March 2015.

¹³⁵⁹ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender balanced economy, Report prepared for G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting, OECD, International Labour Office, International Monetary Fund, The World Bank Group 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>

¹³⁶⁰ “Women Workers in India: Why So Few Among So Many?”, World Bank Group (Washington) March 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2015/wp1555.pdf>

¹³⁶¹ Statistical update on employment in the informal economy, ILO Department of Statistics, (Geneva), July 2012. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. http://laborsta.ilo.org/applv8/data/INFORMAL_ECONOMY/2012-06-Statistical%20update%20-%20v2.pdf

¹³⁶² Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, Medindia, (Anna Nagar), last updated 10 March 2015. Date of Access: 10 March 2015. http://www.medindia.net/indian_health_act/maternity-benefit-rules-1961-right-to-payment-of-maternity-benefits.htm

¹³⁶³ How parental leave rights differ around the world, The Guardian, (London) 29 November 2013. <http://www.theguardian.com/money/shortcuts/2013/nov/29/parental-leave-rights-around-world>

¹³⁶⁴ President of India’s Speech to Parliament in Full, The Wall Street Journal, (New York), 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 10 March 2015.

<http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/02/23/president-of-indias-speech-to-parliament-in-full/>

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has failed to comply with its commitment to address women's participation in the workforce and increase female labour force participation rate by 25%.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank estimates female labour participation consists of 51%.¹³⁶⁵ The male labour participation rate is 84%.¹³⁶⁶ The gender labour gap is therefore 33%. Despite this wide gap, “the percentage of women in [an] executive role in Indonesia [is] 13.6 per cent” and nearly 100% of boards have female members.¹³⁶⁷

Despite the creation of a Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection in 2011, Indonesia struggles with bridging the gender gap between men and women employed by industrial and agricultural industries.¹³⁶⁸ A major cause of this is the underrepresentation of women in public positions.¹³⁶⁹ The government of Indonesia has attempted to improve this by introducing a minimum 30% required female representation in political parties.¹³⁷⁰

There is however no record of Indonesia removing barriers that hinder women's ability to participate in the labour market during this compliance cycle. Thus, Indonesia is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Jackie Houston

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to reduce the gap in participation rates between men and women in the labour force by 25% by 2025.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, the female labour participation in Italy consists of 40%.¹³⁷¹ The male labour participation rate consists of 71%.¹³⁷² The gender labour gap is therefore 31%.

On 15 December 2014, the Jobs Act was implemented. The act necessitates numerous reforms to social welfare, employment, and policies regarding labour relations. The Job Act introduces reforms such as “a tax credit for working women, even autonomous, who have minor children or disabled

¹³⁶⁵ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁶⁶ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹³⁶⁷ Business cannot afford to obstruct women, The Financial Times (London) December 2014. Date of Access: 4 March 2015. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/3fa2858e-66a9-11e4-8bf6-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3TXmT8UyF>

¹³⁶⁸ Employment Plan 2014 Indonesia, G20 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_indonesia.pdf.

¹³⁶⁹ Employment Plan 2014 Indonesia, G20 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_indonesia.pdf.

¹³⁷⁰ Employment Plan 2014 Indonesia, G20 2014. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_employment_plan_indonesia.pdf.

¹³⁷¹ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁷² Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

dependents and who are below a certain threshold of total individual income.”¹³⁷³ Furthermore, tax deductions may be harmonized for a dependent spouse. The Italian government has pledged to expand telework programs, enable workers to utilize transfer days to care for young children, and encourage firms to adopt flexible working hours and productivity bonuses.¹³⁷⁴ Also, women who are victims of gender violence are entitled to three months of leave while receiving 100% of their salary. Victims of gender violence may also have the opportunity to phase back into full-time work with part-time employment.¹³⁷⁵ These are among some of the policy initiatives taken in an effort to make labour force participation more attractive to women.¹³⁷⁶

On 1 January 2015, the baby bonus policy was implemented. If a mother’s annual income is less than EUR25,000, she is entitled to EUR960 per year. If a mother’s annual income is less than EUR7,000 per year, she is entitled to EUR1920 per year. The bonus is applicable to all low-income mothers who give birth or adopt a child between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2017. The bonus is accessible until the child turns three years old. In addition to introducing the baby bonus, the Italian government also increased the value of babysitting vouchers from EUR300 to EUR600 per child.¹³⁷⁷

On 20 February 2015, reforms to the Consolidated Law on Motherhood and Fatherhood were introduced at the Council of Ministers. Under the legislative decree, the funding for maternity leave will increase by EUR222 million. With additional funding, the maximum age of the child to qualify for maternal leave increased from eight to 12 years old. Furthermore, the period in which a mother can collect her salary while on maternal leave increased from three to six years. Additionally, maternity leave is no longer quantified by days, but by hours. Maternity leave can now be accessed by self-employed women and women in the agricultural sector. If a woman cannot redeem the aforementioned benefits, her spouse may access her maternity benefits.

On 24 February 2015, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy expanded incentives for firms to hire unemployed women. If a firm complies, the government will subsidize 50% of the recently hired women’s salaries.¹³⁷⁸ This program is especially active in southern Italy and other economically disadvantaged regions where the labour participation rate of women is lower than the Italian average.¹³⁷⁹

On 17 February 2015, the Italian government announced reforms to its retirement and pension policy. Under the 100 Quota, if one’s age plus years of employment totals to 100, one is entitled to

¹³⁷³ The Jobs Act: The Innovations of the Reform of Labour, Fisco e Tasse (Bologna) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.fiscoetasse.com/approfondimenti/12128-jobs-act-le-novit-della-riforma-del-lavoroo.html>.

¹³⁷⁴ The Jobs Act: The Innovations of the Reform of Labour, Fisco e Tasse (Bologna) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.fiscoetasse.com/approfondimenti/12128-jobs-act-le-novit-della-riforma-del-lavoroo.html>.

¹³⁷⁵ Maternity Leave and Paternity leave in 2015: What Changes with the Approval of the Jobs Act, Forex (Rome) 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.forexinfo.it/Congedo-di-maternita-2015-e?lang=it>.

¹³⁷⁶ The Jobs Act: The Innovations of the Reform of Labour, Fisco e Tasse (Bologna) 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.fiscoetasse.com/approfondimenti/12128-jobs-act-le-novit-della-riforma-del-lavoroo.html>.

¹³⁷⁷ Bonus Babies 2015, GreenMe (Rome) 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.greenme.it/vivere/speciale-bambini/15752-bonus-bebe-2015-come-richiederlo>.

¹³⁷⁸ Unemployed, Big Bonus INPS in these Towns in Umbria, Giornale dell Umbria (Perugia) 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.giornaledellumbria.it/article/article222392.html>.

¹³⁷⁹ Italy Does Not Think "Pink", Ours is Not a Country for Women, EU News (Rome) 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 26 February 2015. <http://www.eunews.it/2015/02/11/litalia-non-pensa-rosa-il-nostro-non-e-un-paese-per-donne/30089>.

retire with a pension. However, women may now retire without penalty if they are 57 years and three months old and have worked for 35 years.¹³⁸⁰

Italy has instituted numerous policies under the Job Act to encourage the participation and employment of women. Thus, Italy is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sarah Sgambelluri

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its gender commitment to close the gap in participation rate between men and women and remove barriers hindering female participation in the labour market.

As of 28 October 2014, its female labour force participation rate was 64%, compared to a male participation rate of 84%.¹³⁸¹ The gender labour gap is therefore 20%.

The average estimated annual income for women in Japan is USD23949, compared to USD40,000 for men.¹³⁸² The female-to-male ratio of wages for similar work was 0.60.¹³⁸³ Japan's average length of maternity leave is 98 calendar days, with 66% of wages paid in the covered period by the government.¹³⁸⁴ Paternity leave data was not available.

Regarding Japan's lack of childcare, the Abe government has committed itself to creating 20,000 new childcare positions by the end of March 2015.¹³⁸⁵ It has so far added 190,000 nursery schools, towards a goal of 400,000 by 2018.¹³⁸⁶ As of 7 December 2014, childcare benefits were raised to 67% of wages, and deemed applicable to both mothers and fathers.¹³⁸⁷ Japan has also introduced the Nadeshiko Meigara scheme, providing incentives to companies that create welcoming workplaces for women.¹³⁸⁸

¹³⁸⁰ Pensions 2015: New Early Retirement, Renzi, Women, and the 100, ControCampus (Salerno) 17 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 February 2015. <http://www.controcampus.it/2015/02/pensioni-2015-novita-pensione-anticipata-renzi-donne-e-quota-100/>.

¹³⁸¹ Japan Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=JPN>.

¹³⁸² Japan Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=JPN>.

¹³⁸³ Japan Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=JPN>.

¹³⁸⁴ Japan Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum 28 October 2014. Date of Access: 17 February 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=JPN>.

¹³⁸⁵ Abe Sells Unfinished Policy Plan as He Rejects Failure, Bloomberg Business 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-11-18/abe-to-sell-unfinished-plan-as-abenomics-shapers-reject-failure>.

¹³⁸⁶ Abe Pushes 'Womenomics' to Shake Up Japan's Workforce Dynamic, Financial Times 7 December 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4c42de68-6a89-11e4-bfb4-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3S4MOPITj>.

¹³⁸⁷ Abe Pushes 'Womenomics' to Shake Up Japan's Workforce Dynamic, Financial Times 7 December 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4c42de68-6a89-11e4-bfb4-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3S4MOPITj>.

¹³⁸⁸ Abe Pushes 'Womenomics' to Shake Up Japan's Workforce Dynamic, Financial Times 7 December 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4c42de68-6a89-11e4-bfb4-00144feabdc0.html#axzz3S4MOPITj>.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledges to have women in 30% of leadership roles in all sectors by 2020, however he has thus far failed to pass a bill requiring employers to publicize plans for the promotion of female employees.¹³⁸⁹

Japan has addressed barriers to female labour force participation by increasing access to childcare and childcare benefits. It has also introduced a scheme encouraging female participation in the formal workforce, reducing informal employment of women. Thus, Japan has taken sufficient and strong enough action to be awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Grace Lee

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with its commitment in reducing the gender gap between men and women in the labour market. Existing initiatives, such as the Task Force for Utilization of Women Resources and Implementation of Gender Equality, have been maintained. The Korean government has explicitly expressed the need to better equip women with families in the workforce.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Korea the female labour participation is 72%.¹³⁹⁰ The male labour participation is 84%.¹³⁹¹ There is therefore a gender labour gap of 12%. According to the Gender Gap Index 2014, Korea ranks 117 out of 142 countries.¹³⁹²

On 16 December 2014, the 2014 performance briefing session for the Task Force for Utilization of Women Resources and Implementation of Gender Equality was held at the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The session shared the successes of the task force in enlarging female employment. This included the ongoing creation of gender equality culture since the task force's establishment on 17 June 2014.¹³⁹³

On 13 January 2015, the Minister of Employment and Labour Lee Ki-kweon addressed the tasks to be carried out in the implementation of the Three-Year Plan for Economic Innovation, currently in its second year. At a joint policy briefing under the theme of economic innovation, Minister Lee Ki-kweon reiterated the need to focus on the third task, "expanding the social safety net to help people back to work." Under this third task, the Korean government will develop more standard contract forms for non-standard contract workers. In addition, the government will attempt to restructure the

¹³⁸⁹ Japan's Parliament Remains a Man's World Despite Womenomics Push, Bloomberg Business 14 December 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-12-15/japan-s-parliament-remains-a-man-s-world-despite-womenomics-push>.

¹³⁹⁰ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁹¹ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹³⁹² Economies: Korea Rep., The Global Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=KOR>.

¹³⁹³ 2014 Performance Briefing Session of the Task Force for Utilization of Women Resource and Implementation of Gender Equality Presentation of successful practice cases for work-family balance (Seoul) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://english.mogef.go.kr/htmleng/webzine/main/sub01.jsp>.

supply market for domestic services. This will improve the employment of domestic workers and create jobs for “middle-aged and older women.”¹³⁹⁴

On 21 January 2015, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family announced its plans to support of the female labour working force and working parents by introducing six support centres for working parents. In addition, they will provide evening consultation services or outreach consultations for families with working parents.¹³⁹⁵

On 6 February 2015, Korean President Park presided over a plenary meeting of the Presidential Commission on the Aging Society and Population Policy in Seoul. President Park called for measures that will lower the cost of raising a child. The President also asserted the need to better help women balance home life and work.¹³⁹⁶

On 23 February 2015, Gender Equality and Family Minister Kim Hee Jung addressed the need to assist young female adults in their late twenties and thirties. She highlighted the need to help women re-enter the workforce following childcare leave. The Korean government has also set targets for the ratio of female managers in state ministries and enterprises. Those results are to be reflected in the organizations’ annual evaluations. The government aims to have female managers make up at least 15% of the total in central government and 18.6% in state enterprises by 2017. Minister Kim claims that these targets are realistic.¹³⁹⁷

The Korean government has taken strong and sufficient enough action in its attempts to achieve the goals set forth in the gender commitment. Thus, Korea is awarded a score of +1 for its promotion of gender equality in the labour market.

Analyst: Allison Ing

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to address women’s participation in the workforce but has not reached the goal to increase women’s participation by 2.5%.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Mexico the female labour participation rate consists of 45%.¹³⁹⁸ The male labour participation rate consists of 80%.¹³⁹⁹ The gender labour participation gap is therefore 35%.

Mexico has increased its female labour force participation rate over the last 15 years but continues to face a significant informal labour market.¹⁴⁰⁰ According to statistics released by the government of

¹³⁹⁴ Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) sets out four rules to create new labor market, Ministry of Employment and Labor (Seoul) 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

http://www.moel.go.kr/english/poli/poliNewsnews_view.jsp?idx=1094.

¹³⁹⁵ Gov’t to push nationwide innovation, happiness for all, Korea.net, 23 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015.

<http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=125086>.

¹³⁹⁶ President Park Announces Plans to Address Population Crisis, The Korea Times (Seoul) 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.koreatimesus.com/president-park-announces-plans-to-address-population-crisis/>.

¹³⁹⁷ South Korea Wants Its Women to Lean In To Workforce After Childbirth, 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-02-25/challenging-gender-inequality-in-south-korea>.

¹³⁹⁸ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹³⁹⁹ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

Mexico in the fourth quarter of 2014, the current female labour force participation rate is 42.8%. The male labour force participation rate is 78.0%.¹⁴⁰¹ The gap between the female and male participation rate indicates that women are not yet equally represented in the workplace.

On 9 December 2014, the Secretariat of Labour and Social Welfare created a new policy to guarantee that all workers receive the bonuses that their position entitles them to. Furthermore, the secretariat stated that maternity leave must be counted as days worked and therefore included in calculations of earned bonuses.¹⁴⁰² Recently, Mexico has made an effort to increase banks' financial support of women and create policies to guarantee women equal benefits in the workplace.¹⁴⁰³

On 16 December 2014, the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit announced the objective to improve the diversity of access to credit in the annual financing plan for 2015.¹⁴⁰⁴ This indicates that women will be more eligible for financial support from Mexican banks.

On 21 January 2015, the Department of Social Development launched a life insurance program to make the life insurance of the head of household equal regardless of gender. This commitment is a part of the Mexican City of Women Campaign.¹⁴⁰⁵

Mexico has taken steps towards amending laws that discriminate against women and improving gender equality in the work place, but has not taken sufficient or strong enough concrete policy action to reduce the labour inequality gap between men and women. Thus, Mexico is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Jackie Houston

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with its commitment on gender.

Russian Federal State Statistics Service Rosstat has appropriate information on women's participation in the labour force, which is available on its website.^{1406,1407} As of March 2015 women constituted

¹⁴⁰⁰ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender-balanced economy, Organization for Economic Development and Co-operation (Melbourne) 10-11 September 2014. Date of Access: 13 February 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>.

¹⁴⁰¹ Labour and Employment, National Institute of Statistics and Geography (Aguascalientes) 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 15 February 2015. <http://www3.inegi.org.mx/sistemas/temas/default.aspx?s=est&c=25433&t=1>.

¹⁴⁰² STPS implements actions to ensure payment of worker's bonuses, Ministry of Labour (Mexico City) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 15 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/diciembre/bol_340.html.

¹⁴⁰³ STPS implements actions to ensure payment of worker's bonuses, Ministry of Labour (Mexico City) 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 15 February 2015. http://www.stps.gob.mx/bp/secciones/sala_prensa/boletines/2014/diciembre/bol_340.html.

¹⁴⁰⁴ Ministry of Finance and Public Credit presents the 2015 annual finance plan, Ministry of Finance and Public Credit (Mexico City) 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 15 February 2015. http://www.shcp.gob.mx/SALAPRENSA/doc_comunicados_prensa/2014/diciembre/comunicado_110_2014.pdf.

¹⁴⁰⁵ The government of the Republic seeks the welfare and full-development of women, Ministry of Social Development (Tlapa) 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 15 February 2015. http://www.sedesol.gob.mx/en/SEDESOL/Comunicados/_rid/57/2797/el-gobierno-de-la-republica-busca-el-bienestar-y-desarrollo-pleno-de-las-mujeres-rosario-robles.

¹⁴⁰⁶ Employment and unemployment in March 2015, Rosstat 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015. http://www.gks.ru/bgd/regl/b15_01/IssWWW.exe/Stg/d03/3-2.doc.

¹⁴⁰⁷ Number of Employed in the Economy by Sex and Occupation in 2013, Rosstat 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015. http://www.gks.ru/bgd/regl/b14_12/IssWWW.exe/stg/d01/06-05.htm.

48.9% of the Russian active workforce. Thus, the issue of gender participation gap in Russia is practically nonexistent.¹⁴⁰⁸

On 11 March 2015, Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection of Russia Alexey Vovchenko stated during his presentation to the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women that Russia is steadily increasing wages for workers occupied in public medicine, education, and social protection services, which are predominantly women. Thus, from 2012 to 2014 the women's to men's wages ratio increased from 67.9% to 74.2%.¹⁴⁰⁹

On 26 April 2015, the Government of the Russian Federation reported on the measures aimed at improving the conditions for women with children to engage in workforce. According to the government press release, in 2014 these measures resulted in increase in the number of employed women between 20 and 49 years old having children by 11.3 percentage points up to 76.6%.¹⁴¹⁰

Russia has appropriate information on women's participation in the labour force and took action to increase women's participation in the workforce. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reduce the gap in participation rates between men and women in the labour force by 25% by 2025.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Saudi Arabia the female labour participation is 20%.¹⁴¹¹ The male labour participation is 78%.¹⁴¹² Therefore there is a gender labour gap of 58%.

On 17 November 2014, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labour announced new maternity leave regulations. Women who work at least twelve months with the same employer are entitled to ten weeks of paid leave. Women who work for over three years with the same employer are entitled to receive their full salary. However, women who receive a full salary will not receive an annual leave payment.¹⁴¹³

On 6 December 2014, the Saudi Ministry of Labour initiated a trial application of telecommuting programs. After the program's completion in January 2015, the Ministry of Labour formally

¹⁴⁰⁸ Employment and unemployment in March 2015, Rosstat 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

http://www.gks.ru/bgd/regl/b15_01/lssWWW.exe/Stg/d03/3-2.doc.

¹⁴⁰⁹ Deputy Minister Alexey Vovchenko: in 2014 wages in the public sector for women's to men's wages ratio reached 74.2 per cent, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Russia 11 March 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015.

<http://www.rosmintrud.ru/social/social/244>.

¹⁴¹⁰ On creating conditions for women to engage in workforce while raising children, Russian Government 26 April 2015. Date of access: 15 May 2015. <http://government.ru/orders/17836/>.

¹⁴¹¹ Labour force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹⁴¹² Labour force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+) (modelled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹⁴¹³ Saudi Firms Allowed to Dictate Due Date of Employee's Baby, Arabian Business (Riyadh) 17 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/saudi-arabia-eyes-more-female-workers-with-breast-feeding-plan-575539.html>.

announced a telework program.¹⁴¹⁴ The program is designed to specifically employ women in remote areas and people with disabilities.¹⁴¹⁵

From 9-11 December 2014, the Saudi Ministry of Labour conducted the Together for Resettlement employment program. The program encouraged 23 companies to generate 1,000 jobs for women, paying salaries between SR4500 and SR12,000.¹⁴¹⁶

On 17 December 2014, the Saudi Ministry of Labour announced that new mothers who work will receive a break to breastfeed for one hour. A woman may take this break once a day for up to two years after the birth of her child. Furthermore, pilot programs for government-funded daycare centres will occur throughout 2015.¹⁴¹⁷

On 2 January 2015, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Labour announced that the third phase of "Saudization" will be implemented. Saudization is the process in which foreign workers are dismissed from the private sector to prioritize the employment of Saudi Arabian citizens. While the third phase is not necessarily gender-specific, the Ministry of Labour wrote that the stricter requirements will necessitate the employment of 750,000 men and women. The third phase will be implemented on 20 April 2015.¹⁴¹⁸

In 2011, Royal Order No. 121 established the feminization of women's shops to increase job opportunities for women and protect the privacy of female consumers. This was initially implemented in lingerie and cosmetic stores. According to the Ministry of Labour, men and women must be employed in separate departments. If stores do not comply, gradual punitive action will be taken.¹⁴¹⁹ By the end of 2015, the ministry will eliminate the employment of men in stores that sell feminine products. Infractions committed by stores will be available on a database and ministry officials will frequently inspect stores.¹⁴²⁰

On 9 February 2015, the Riyadh Chamber Branch hosted the Conscious Program for Business Women. The program provided training for women on legal issues, entrepreneurship, and commercial contracts.¹⁴²¹

Despite the numerous aforementioned initiatives, Saudi Arabia has failed to address some inhibitions to women's participation in the labour force. In Saudi Arabia, women are not permitted to drive as

¹⁴¹⁴ Work from Home Project to Begin Next Month, Arab News (Jeddah) 6 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/670456>.

¹⁴¹⁵ G20 Member Employment Plans 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 Information Centre (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2014brisbane.html>.

¹⁴¹⁶ Conclusion of Recruitment Campaign Women Riyadh Chamber (0073), Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 15 December 2014. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.spa.gov.sa/lsearch.php?s=%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A1&s2=&pg=4&by1=n&searchbody=0>.

¹⁴¹⁷ Saudi Arabia Eyes More Female Workers with Breast-Feeding Plan, Arabian Business (Riyadh) 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 19 February 2015. <http://www.arabianbusiness.com/saudi-arabia-eyes-more-female-workers-with-breast-feeding-plan-575539.html>.

¹⁴¹⁸ New Phase of Nitaqat Announced, Arab News (Jeddah) 2 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/news/683216>.

¹⁴¹⁹ G20 Member Employment Plans 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 Information Centre (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2014brisbane.html>.

¹⁴²⁰ Men, Women Found Working Together in Female Shops, Arab News (Jeddah) 19 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/706511>.

¹⁴²¹ Riyadh Chamber Regulates the "Conscious Program" (0027), Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 5 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.spa.gov.sa/lsearch.php?s=%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A1&s2=&pg=2&by1=n&searchbody=0>.

driving is illegal under Shari'a law. Consequently, if a woman does not have access to subsidized transportation and cannot afford a private driver, she cannot work. Although Saudi Arabia pledged to provide transportation for female workers on 16 November 2014, the Ministry of Labour has not announced any policy initiatives.¹⁴²²

Furthermore, many employers in Saudi Arabia require a ten-hour workday to compensate for prayer and breaks. In Saudi Arabia, a woman requires her male guardian's permission to work. However, a male guardian may not be comfortable with a woman being outside of the home for an extended period of time. As a result, many women cannot participate in the labour force. The Ministry of Labour has not addressed the long workday, nor has it announced a remedy.

The Saudi Arabian government has persevered in its attempts to achieve the goals set forth in the gender commitment. During this compliance cycle, it has specifically taken strong and consistent policy action aimed at increasing the female labour rate.

Thus Saudi Arabia is awarded a score of +1 for its promotion of gender equality in the labour market.

Analyst: Sarah Sgambelluri

South Africa: -1

South Africa has failed to improve the status of gender equality in the labour force in as of 2015. While few commitments have been made to work towards G20 goals, there has been an overall failure to comply with these promises.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in South Africa the female labour participation is 45%.¹⁴²³ The male labour participation is 61%.¹⁴²⁴ Thus the gender participation gap is 24%.

On 31 of January 2015, South Africa adopted the United Nations 2015 recommendations on gender equality.¹⁴²⁵ These recommendations include open debates on women's empowerment, including issue areas such as access to credit and markets and land distribution in the post-2015 development agenda. The adoption of these recommendations will attempt to promote women as equal members of the economy.¹⁴²⁶

The "New Growth Path," part of the South African G20 Employment Plan 2014, is designed to encourage women in the workforce "through lowering the barriers of entry into trade and employment by addressing structural constraints that entrepreneurs and workers face in their daily

¹⁴²² G20 Member Employment Plans 2014: Saudi Arabia, G20 Information Centre (Brisbane) 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 21 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2014brisbane.html>.

¹⁴²³ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 16 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹⁴²⁴ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 16 March 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹⁴²⁵ 24th AU Summit Adopts Decisions of Post-2015 Negotiations, Gender Equality and Illicit Flows, African Regional Coverage February 2015. Date Accessed: February 25th 2015.

<http://africasd.iisd.org/news/24th-au-summit-adopts-decisions-on-post-2015-negotiations-gender-equality-illicit-flows/>

¹⁴²⁶ 24th AU Summit Adopts Decisions of Post-2015 Negotiations, Gender Equality and Illicit Flows, African Regional Coverage February 2015. Date Accessed: February 25th 2015.

<http://africasd.iisd.org/news/24th-au-summit-adopts-decisions-on-post-2015-negotiations-gender-equality-illicit-flows/>

respective environments.”¹⁴²⁷ However, high HIV/AIDS rates continue to negatively affect women’s participation in the work force, affecting human capital as well as childcare capabilities.¹⁴²⁸

In a slightly different stream yet a stream that greatly impacts female labour participation, on 25 November 2014, at the 16 Days of Activism conference against violence against women, Chief Moses Mahlangu declared that women must be submissive to their husbands, and called upon ministers to cut funding from centres for abused women.¹⁴²⁹ These comments, which received standing applause, do not point to a government committed to encouraging the role of women in the work force.

This demonstrates the failure for South Africa to comply with goals to increase participation by 2.5% per annum. Therefore, South Africa has received a score of -1.

Analyst: Madeline Torrie

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment in reducing the gender gap between men and women in the labour market. The Government of Turkey has complied with its existing commitments to institutions exogenous of the state. In addition, it has created new educational initiatives to narrow the gender gap. However, contradicting statements made on behalf of state officials convolute Turkey’s position on gender equality.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in Turkey the female labour participation is 29%.¹⁴³⁰ The male labour participation is 71%.¹⁴³¹ Therefore there is a gender labour participation gap of 42%.

A recent publication by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development confirmed that in 2012, the female level of informal employment is 32.6%. The gender gap in the incidence of informal unemployment is hence -2.5%.¹⁴³² According to the Gender Gap Index 2014 published by the World Economic Forum, Turkey ranks 125 out of 142 countries.¹⁴³³

¹⁴²⁷ New Growth Path, South African Government (Republic of South Africa). Date Accessed: February 27th 2015. <http://www.gov.za/about-government/government-programmes/new-growth-path>

¹⁴²⁸ The New Growth Path: Framework, Economic Development Department (Republic of South Africa) 2011. Date Accessed: February 21 2015.

[file:///home/chris/Downloads/NGP_fina%20\(1\).pdf](file:///home/chris/Downloads/NGP_fina%20(1).pdf)

¹⁴²⁹ Op-Ed: 16 days of no violence against women and children - Women’s ministry colludes with patriarchy, Rhodes University, November 11 2014. Date Accessed: February 24 2015.

<http://www.ru.ac.za/perspective/perspectivearticles/op-ed16daysofnoviolenceagainstwomenandchildren-womensministrycoll-1.html>

¹⁴³⁰ Labor force participation rate, female (% of female population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>

¹⁴³¹ Labor force participation rate, male (% of male population ages 15+)(modeled ILO estimate), World Bank (Washington) 2015. Date of Access: 23 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>

¹⁴³² Indicators on male and female labour outcomes, Achieving stronger growth promoting a more gender-balanced economy, OECD, ILO, IMF, World Bank Group (Melbourne) 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>.

¹⁴³³ Economies: Turkey, the Global Gender Gap Index 2014, World Economic Forum. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2014/economies/#economy=TUR>.

On 24 November 2014, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan made remarks regarding equality for women at a women's conference in Istanbul. President Erdoğan asserted his belief that women cannot be treated as equal to men. In addition, he said that justice was the solution for "women's problems."¹⁴³⁴

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoğlu addressed the issue of gender equality in his message for the Turkish G20 Presidency Priorities for 2015. Prime Minister Davutoğlu reiterated Turkey's commitment on strengthening gender equality in employment. This commitment is part of the Turkish presidency's desire for Inclusiveness for Growth.¹⁴³⁵

On 16 February 2015, Chairperson Nicole Ameline addressed the 60th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Ameline confirmed Turkey's submission of their periodic report since the beginning of the last session held on 11 November 2014.¹⁴³⁶

On 23 February 2015, the United Nations Joint Programme for Promoting the Human Rights of Women Program held an advisory council meeting. This program began in 2013 and works to develop and implement gender equality at the municipal level in order to advance women's rights. It focuses on three areas: gender-responsive budgeting, the Sabanci Foundation Grant Programme and the Purple Certificate Programme.¹⁴³⁷ Kamal Malhotra, the UN Resident Coordinator (Turkey) and resident representative of the UN Development Programme, reiterated Turkey's agenda to further promote gender equality under the scope of the UN Joint Programme.

Furthermore, on 6 February 2015, Turkey aligned itself with an European Union statement made at the United Nations Commission for Social Development. The statement delivered by Inese Freimane-Deksne, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of the Republic of Latvia, reiterated the EU and its members' determination to cooperate towards the advancement of social development and the empowerment of all people. Moreover, the statement addressed the EU's collective intolerance for discrimination. This includes the denial of universal human rights and basic economic opportunities based on gender discrimination.¹⁴³⁸

Turkey aims to adhere to their promotion of gender equality in the labour force through means of accessible programs. However, the position of Turkey's leadership on gender equality remains unclear. Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Allison Ing

¹⁴³⁴ Turkey's president Erdogan: Women are not equal to men, BBC News, 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30183711>.

¹⁴³⁵ Message from the Prime Minister Republic of Turkey, Turkish G20 Presidency Priorities for 2015. G20, 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015-TURKEY-G-20-PRESIDENCY-FINAL.pdf>.

¹⁴³⁶ Statement by Ms. Nicole Ameline, Chairperson at the 60th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, OHCHR (Geneva) 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_OCR_60_23172_E.pdf.

¹⁴³⁷ Activities on women's human rights implemented within the UN Joint Programme assessed, UNDP, 1 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. <http://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/news-from-new-horizons/2015/03/activities-on-womens-human-rights-implemented-within-the-un-join.html>.

¹⁴³⁸ EU Statement – United Nations Commission for Social Development: Social Groups, EU Delegation to the UN (New York) 6 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 March 2015. http://eu-un.europa.eu/articles/en/article_16053_en.htm.

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment at the Brisbane Summit with regards to reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women by 25% by 2025.

While the UK is advanced in its policies of gender inclusion, there is little discussion on reducing the informal employment of women in the workforce, or sharing information with financial institutions about the benefits of increasing female financial inclusion since the Brisbane Summit.

Currently, the UK ranks relatively high compared to other developed G20 countries in female labour force participation. The most recent ranking by the World Bank estimates that the female participation rate is 56%¹⁴³⁹ while the male participation rate is 69%.¹⁴⁴⁰ Therefore, the gender labour gap is 10%. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates that the wage gap between men and women is 12.3%.¹⁴⁴¹

On 24 February 2015, the House of Lords Select Committee on Affordable Childcare published an announcement stating an increase of investment on early education and childcare by GBP1.2 billion annually, increasing the amount from GBP5.2 billion to GBP6.4 billion spent annually. It also announced the implementation of a tax-free childcare scheme. The intention of these measures to balance the responsibility of child care is to enable parents to work.¹⁴⁴² This is to address the concerns that the national average for child care has risen 5% in the past year.¹⁴⁴³

In March 2015, an OECD survey demonstrated that “the UK has made progress in equalizing earnings between men and women and getting more women into the workplace, ... [and] the difference in pay has diminished from 26 per cent in 2000 to 18 per cent in 2012 in the UK — slightly worse than the OECD average differential of 16 per cent.”¹⁴⁴⁴ In the UK, men still have consistently higher employment rates than women above the age of 22, and tend to work in the professional occupations associated with higher levels of pay than women.¹⁴⁴⁵

¹⁴³⁹ Labor force participation rate, female, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>.

¹⁴⁴⁰ Labor force participation rate, male, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>.

¹⁴⁴¹ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender balanced economy, Report prepared for G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting, OECD, International Labour Office, International Monetary Fund, The World Bank Group 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>.

¹⁴⁴² Affordable Childcare, House of Lords Select Committee on Affordable Childcare, (London) 24 February 2015. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/affordable-childcare/news/affordable-childcare-report/>.

¹⁴⁴³ Labour to double paid paternity leave to four weeks, BBC News, (London) 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-politics-31253409>.

¹⁴⁴⁴ UK urged to close gender pay gap and improve participation rates, The Guardian (London) March 2015. Date of Access: 9 March 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/mar/02/women-employment-equality-pay-oecd-survey>.

¹⁴⁴⁵ Full report : Women in the labour market, Office for National Statistics, (London), 25 September 2013. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp171776_328352.pdf.

The United Kingdom has boosted investment in affordable healthcare and has moved to institute a greater period of paternity leave; two policy streams closely connected to that of female participation. However, it has not taken direct enough policy action aimed at increasing the female labour participation rate. Thus, the United Kingdom is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Madeline Torrie

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment from the Brisbane Summit to establish concrete policies and amend to reduce the gender gap by 25% by 2025. Issues that stand out in the United States are the lack of paid maternity leave and affordable child care, although the White House has made some efforts to improve the situation.

According to the most recent statistics provided by the World Bank, in the United States the female participation rate in the labour force is 56%.¹⁴⁴⁶ The male participation rate is 69%.¹⁴⁴⁷ The gender gap is thus 13%.¹⁴⁴⁸ The gap is prevalent in other areas: out of 131 countries, the United States places 50 in terms of the ability for women to rise to positions of leadership.¹⁴⁴⁹ In addition, the gender gap is greater for women of different races in the United States. While white women earn as of 2013, 78% of white men's earnings, hispanic women earn only 54% of white men's earnings.¹⁴⁵⁰

On 20 January 2015, in the State of the Union address, President Barack Obama referred specifically to the role of affordable child care in improving the workplace participation of women. He reframed childcare from being perceived as a "women's issue" to being a national economic priority.¹⁴⁵¹

On 2 February 2015, the national budget was released for the 2016 fiscal year. It recommends expanding accesses to quality, affordable health care, childcare tax credits of up to USD3,000, and supporting universal preschool with USD750 million for preschool development grants. In addition, the budget proposes a "second earner" tax credits of USD500 to benefit 24 million dual earner couples, as well as encourages states to develop paid family leave programs.¹⁴⁵² The budget also

¹⁴⁴⁶ Labor force participation rate, female, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.FE.ZS>.

¹⁴⁴⁷ Labor force participation rate, male, The World Bank Group (Washington). Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.TLF.CACT.MA.ZS>.

¹⁴⁴⁸ Achieving stronger growth by promoting a more gender balanced economy, Report prepared for G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting, OECD, International Labour Office, International Monetary Fund, The World Bank Group, 15 August 2014. Date of Access: 03 March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/g20/topics/employment-and-social-policy/ILO-IMF-OECD-WBG-Achieving-stronger-growth-by-promoting-a-more-gender-balanced-economy-G20.pdf>.

¹⁴⁴⁹ The Global Gender Gap Report 2014, The World Economic Forum, (Geneva), 27 October 2014. Date of Access: 04 March 2015. http://www3.weforum.org/docs/GGGR14/GGGR_CompleteReport_2014.pdf.

¹⁴⁵⁰ By the Numbers: A Look at the Gender Pay Gap, AAUW, (Washington), September 2014. Date of Access: 04 March 2015. <http://www.aauw.org/2014/09/18/gender-pay-gap/>.

¹⁴⁵¹ Address by President Barak Obama in State of the Union Address, Office of the Press Secretary (Washington) 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 04 March 2015.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/20/remarks-president-state-union-address-january-20-2015>

¹⁴⁵² Middle Class Economics: The President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, Office of Management and Budget, (Washington) 02 February 2015. Date of Access: 04 March 2015. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2015/02/02/fact-sheet-middle-class-economics-president-s-fiscal-year-2016-budget>.

provides resources to strengthen pay discrimination resources and support the equal opportunity commission.¹⁴⁵³

However, these measures, though important to meeting the Brisbane Summit commitments to female participation, do not compensate for a lack of paid maternity leave. Even though the US Department of Labour stipulates that employers cannot discriminate based on gender, only 11% of all private industry workers have access to paid family leave which is essential for the United States to meet their G20 commitments.¹⁴⁵⁴ Therefore, the United States is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Madeline Torrie

European Union: Not applicable

The European Union does not possess the authority to comply with its commitment to reduce the gender gap between men and women in the labour market.

Although the EU can donate funds and encourage member governments and organizations to increase female participation in the labour market, it cannot implement direct legislation or policy. Ultimately, such authority rests with the individual member governments. Therefore, such limitations hinder the EU's ability to achieve strong and sufficient action to increase female participation.

Thus, the European Union is exempt from complying with this commitment.

¹⁴⁵³ United States Report on the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the context of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 2015, UN Women, (New York) 05 November 2014. Date of Access: 04 March 2015. http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/usa_review_beijing_20.pdf.

¹⁴⁵⁴ Workplace Rights Fact Sheet, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, (Washington). Date of Access: 04 March 2015. <http://www.dol.gov/ofccp/regs/compliance/factsheets/wprights.htm>.

13. Financial Regulation

“We commit to improve the transparency of ... beneficial ownership by implementing the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.”

G20 Brisbane Summit Leaders' Communiqué

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan	-1		
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		+0.30	

Background

The G20 has considered the transparency of beneficial ownership of legal persons and arrangements as a high priority starting from the St Petersburg Summit, as preventing the misuse of these entities for illicit purposes such as corruption, tax evasion and money laundering supports the core G20 objective of increasing growth through private sector investment.

In the G20 St Petersburg Declaration leaders encouraged “all countries to tackle the risks raised by the opacity of legal persons and legal arrangements.”¹⁴⁵⁵ They also called on finance ministers to update them by the 2014 G20 summit “on the steps taken to meet FATF [Financial Action Task Force] standards regarding the beneficial ownership of companies and other legal arrangements such as trusts by G20 countries leading by example.”¹⁴⁵⁶

¹⁴⁵⁵ The G20 St. Petersburg Summit Leader’s Declaration, 6 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>.

¹⁴⁵⁶ The G20 St. Petersburg Summit Leader’s Declaration, 6 September 2013. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>.

At their meeting in Sydney in February 2014, G20 finance ministers and central bank governors asked the Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) for an update by their April meeting on concrete actions that the G20 can take to lead by example in meeting the FATF beneficial ownership standards.¹⁴⁵⁷

At the meeting in Sydney the G20 ACWG agreed that G20 members will lead by example by developing G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency that will set out concrete measures they will take to prevent the misuse and ensure transparency of legal persons and legal arrangements.¹⁴⁵⁸

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 members to improve the transparency of legal persons and arrangements in line with the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.

The following set of principles, building on existing international standards, and allowing “sufficient flexibility” for G20 members’ “different constitutional and legal frameworks,” were adopted at the Brisbane Summit:

1. Countries should have a definition of ‘beneficial owner’ that captures the natural person(s) who ultimately owns or controls the legal person or legal arrangement.
2. Countries should assess the existing and emerging risks associated with different types of legal persons and arrangements, which should be addressed from a domestic and international perspective.
 - a. Appropriate information on the results of the risk assessments should be shared with competent authorities, financial institutions and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs¹⁴⁵⁹) and, as appropriate, other jurisdictions.
 - b. Effective and proportionate measures should be taken to mitigate the risks identified.
 - c. Countries should identify high-risk sectors, and enhanced due diligence could be appropriately considered for such sectors.
3. Countries should ensure that legal persons maintain beneficial ownership information onshore and that information is adequate, accurate, and current.
4. Countries should ensure that competent authorities (including law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities, supervisory authorities, tax authorities and financial intelligence units) have timely access to adequate, accurate and current information regarding the beneficial ownership of legal persons. Countries could implement this, for example, through central registries of beneficial ownership of legal persons or other appropriate mechanisms.
5. Countries should ensure that trustees of express trusts maintain adequate, accurate and current beneficial ownership information, including information of settlors, the protector (if any) trustees and beneficiaries. These measures should also apply to other legal arrangements with a structure or function similar to express trusts.
6. Countries should ensure that competent authorities (including law enforcement and prosecutorial authorities, supervisory authorities, tax authorities and financial intelligence units)

¹⁴⁵⁷ G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Communiqué, 23 February 2014. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-0223-finance.html>.

¹⁴⁵⁸ G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency, 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_high-level_principles_beneficial_ownership_transparency.pdf.

¹⁴⁵⁹ As identified by the Financial Action Task-force

have timely access to adequate, accurate and current information regarding the beneficial ownership of legal arrangements.

7. Countries should require financial institutions and DNFBBs, including trust and company service providers, to identify and take reasonable measures, including taking into account country risks, to verify the beneficial ownership of their customers.
 - a. Countries should consider facilitating access to beneficial ownership information by financial institutions and DNFBBs.
 - b. Countries should ensure effective supervision of these obligations, including the establishment and enforcement of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions for non-compliance.
8. Countries should ensure that their national authorities cooperate effectively domestically and internationally. Countries should also ensure that their competent authorities participate in information exchange on beneficial ownership with international counterparts in a timely and effective manner.
9. Countries should support G20 efforts to combat tax evasion by ensuring that beneficial ownership information is accessible to their tax authorities and can be exchanged with relevant international counterparts in a timely and effective manner.
10. Countries should address the misuse of legal persons and legal arrangements which may obstruct transparency, including:
 - a. prohibiting the ongoing use of bearer shares and the creation of new bearer shares, or taking other effective measures to ensure that bearer shares and bearer share warrants are not misused; and
 - b. taking effective measures to ensure that legal persons which allow nominee shareholders or nominee directors are not misused.¹⁴⁶⁰

G20 members also agreed that, as a next step, they would take concrete action and share in writing measures to be taken to implement these principles and improve the effectiveness of their legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks with respect to beneficial ownership transparency.¹⁴⁶¹

Overall, the principles provide for actions across two dimensions. First, G20 members should change their domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to address the issue of beneficial ownership (Principles 1, 3-7, 10). Second, they should ensure effective cross-country cooperation, including information exchange on beneficial ownership with international counterparts (Principle 9). Some of the Principles refer to both areas (Principles 2, 8).

Thus, to achieve full compliance the G20 member must take actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving their domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and strengthening international cooperation with respect to beneficial ownership transparency.

¹⁴⁶⁰ G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency, 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_high-level_principles_beneficial_ownership_transparency.pdf.

¹⁴⁶¹ G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency, 16 November 2014. Date of Access: 19 January 2015. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_high-level_principles_beneficial_ownership_transparency.pdf.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not take any actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.
0	Member takes actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, OR strengthening international cooperation.
+1	Member takes actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, AND strengthening international cooperation.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Argentina has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

Argentina's current civil law already has a definition of beneficial owner and regulates relations of ownership in this sphere.¹⁴⁶²

The Financial Information Union (FIU, an autonomous body within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of Argentina) takes action to mitigate risks associated with different types of legal persons and arrangements. For example, on 15 February 2015, the FIU fined several members of the board of directors of Bainter S.a. De Ahorro Para Fines Determinados for not being registered as the beneficial owners.¹⁴⁶³

On 1 January 2016, the new Civil and Commercial Code of the Nation will come into force after passing by the House of Representatives. The regulation of beneficial ownership will become deeper and more universal in the new version of the document in comparison with the previous code.¹⁴⁶⁴

However, no evidence of Argentina's actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation has been registered during the compliance period.

Argentina has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, but failed to strengthen international cooperation. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on beneficial ownership transparency.

¹⁴⁶² Código Civil de la Nación, Centro de Documentación e Información del Ministerio de Economía y Finanzas Públicas. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.infoleg.gov.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/105000-109999/109481/texact.htm>.

¹⁴⁶³ La UIF Multó a una Sociedad de Ahorro por no Estar Registrada, Unidad de Información Financiera del Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.uif.gov.ar/uif/index.php/en/noticias/671-la-uif-multo-a-una-sociedad-de-ahorro-por-no-estar-registrada>.

¹⁴⁶⁴ Código Civil y Comercial de la Nación, Sistema Argentino de Información Jurídica del Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.infojus.gob.ar/docs-f/codigo/Codigo_Civil_y_Comercial_de_la_Nacion.pdf.

The definition of beneficial owner is contained in the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) Rules Instrument 2007, last amended on 23 January 2015. This document requires reporting entities to have an AML/CTF programs with appropriate mechanisms of collection and verification of beneficial ownership information and risk-assessment mechanisms.¹⁴⁶⁵

On 20 November 2014, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) cancelled the registration of AVSForex Pty Ltd, a Melbourne-based remitter company, following the conviction of its sole director for money laundering and allegations of the involvement of “serious and organized crime.” AUSTRAC worked collaboratively with the Australian Federal Police, Australian Crime Commission, Eligo National Taskforce and Indian Enforcement Directorate to curb illegal activities by international syndicate.¹⁴⁶⁶

During the compliance period Australia has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving their domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as strengthening international cooperation with respect to beneficial ownership transparency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: –1

Brazil has failed to comply with the commitment on beneficial ownership transparency.

No actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency taken by Brazil have been registered during the compliance period. Thus, it is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Canada has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 22 December 2014, the guidance on enhanced financial accounts information reporting was issued. The guidance is intended to provide clarity to help financial institutions and their advisors understand and comply with their due diligence and reporting obligations.¹⁴⁶⁷

Canada has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation.

On 25 January 2015, the convention between the government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the government of Canada for the avoidance of double taxation

¹⁴⁶⁵ Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Rules Instrument 2007 (No. 1), Australian Government ComLaw 23 January 2015. Date of access 14 May 2015. <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2015C00096>.

¹⁴⁶⁶ Further action to dismantle international money laundering syndicate, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre 20 November 2014. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://www.austrac.gov.au/media/media-releases/further-action-dismantle-international-money-laundering-syndicate>.

¹⁴⁶⁷ Guidance on enhanced financial accounts information reporting, Canada Revenue Agency 22 December 2014. Access Date: 10 May 2015. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/nnrdsnts/nhncdrprtng/gdnc-eng.pdf>.

and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and capital gains was amended. The convention provides for information exchange in the area of beneficial ownership.¹⁴⁶⁸

During the compliance period Canada has acted to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and to strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

China has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 1 December 2014, Chinese taxation authorities pledged to expand supervision of multinational companies to crack down on tax avoidance. Zhang Zhiyong, deputy director of the State Administration of Taxation, said that China would comprehensively monitor the profit levels of foreign companies, because some companies may erode a country's tax base by using a number of schemes to shift profits across borders, taking advantage of tax rates that are lower than in the country where they earn the profits. China will coordinate it with other countries. Zhang also said that China will actively engage in global cooperation to fight illicit activities and tax avoidance schemes.¹⁴⁶⁹

China has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation.

On 26 March 2015, at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited China and attended the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference. During the visit the two sides agreed to actively realize taxation cooperation, fight international tax evasion and help developing countries and low-income countries to build up capabilities in terms of taxation and related administration, to create favourable taxation environment for investment, economic cooperation and trade between China and Indonesia. The two sides signed the Protocol and Memorandum of Understanding on the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income, providing for, inter alia, cooperation in the area of beneficial ownership information exchange.¹⁴⁷⁰

¹⁴⁶⁸ [TS No.6/2015] UK/Canada: Protocol Amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and Capital Gains, signed at London on 8 September 1978, as Amended, UK Government 27 January 2015. Access Date: 10 May 2015.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ts-no62015-ukcanada-protocol-amending-the-convention-for-the-avoidance-of-double-taxation-and-the-prevention-of-fiscal-evasion-with-respect-to-t>.

¹⁴⁶⁹ China to prevent foreign companies from avoiding tax, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 1 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2014/12/02/content_281475018241423.htm

¹⁴⁷⁰ Joint Statement on Strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Norway 26 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://wza.fmprc.gov.cn/yxsm/index.php?m=proxy&a=show&q_url=http%3A%2F%2Fno.china-embassy.org%2Feng%2F.%2Fzyxw%2Ft1249201.htm

During the compliance period China has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: +1

France has fully complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

France has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

Beneficial ownership transparency stems from the Order 2009-104 of 30 January 2009, codified in articles L. 612-14 and followed by the Monetary and Financial Code of France.¹⁴⁷¹

On 10 April 2013, French President François Hollande declared that “French banks will have to publish annually a list of all their subsidiaries around the world, country by country ... this obligation to also be applied at the level of the European Union and, tomorrow, extended to large companies.”¹⁴⁷²

France has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation.

On 27 January 2015, the money laundering directive launched on 5 February 2013 was passed by the European Parliament committees. It includes several innovations, for example the requirement to create national beneficial ownership databases.¹⁴⁷³ In the same period the ministers of finance of France, Germany and Italy issued a letter on greater harmonization and strategy in curbing tax evasion and avoidance.¹⁴⁷⁴ In the course of fighting against tax evasion the ministers addressed the creation of EU-wide beneficial ownership registers which would collect information on who is actually behind a company or other legal entity.¹⁴⁷⁵ Also at the instigation of France and the G20, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes has become the main body responsible for designing international norms and standards in the fight against tax havens, especially developing new requirements concerning the beneficial owner identification.¹⁴⁷⁶

¹⁴⁷¹ Lignes directrices conjointes de l’Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de Tracfin sur la déclaration de soupçon <http://www.economie.gouv.fr/files/201007-lignes-directrices-conjointes-Acp-tracfin.pdf>

¹⁴⁷² Comment Hollande veut "éradiquer" les paradis fiscaux et l'évasion fiscale. L'EXPRESS.fr, 10/04/2013 Date of Access: 22 April 2015.. http://lexpansion.lexpress.fr/actualite-economique/comment-hollande-veut-eradiquer-les-paradis-fiscaux-et-l-evasion-fiscale_1422585.html

¹⁴⁷³ Money laundering: company owner lists to fight tax crime and terrorist financing Date of Access: 22 April 2014. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20150126IPR14918/html/Money-laundering-company-owner-lists-to-fight-tax-crime-and-terrorist-financing>

¹⁴⁷⁴ Germany, France And Italy Urge EU To Write Common Corporate Tax Laws, EurActiv 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/germany-france-and-italy-urge-eu-write-common-corporate-tax-laws-310489>

¹⁴⁷⁵ Germany, Italy & France Call for Strengthened Fight on Tax Avoidance, Registers of Beneficial Ownership. December 3rd, 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.. <http://financialtransparency.org/news/germany-italy-france-call-for-strengthened-fight-on-tax-avoidance-registers-of-beneficial-ownership/>

¹⁴⁷⁶ Lutte contre les paradis fiscaux : l’impulsion de la France (12 février 2015) Date of Access: 22 April 2015.. <http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/fr/politique-etrangere-de-la-france/diplomatie-economique-et-commerce/actualites-liees-a-la-diplomatie-23093/2015/article/lutte-contre-les-paradis-fiscaux-l>

During the compliance period France has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Germany has hindered the implementation of the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 16 December 2014, the final negotiations between members of the European Parliament and the European member states were held in Strasbourg, France. Under the draft compromise agreement, all European Union countries were required “to obtain and hold adequate, accurate and current information on their beneficial ownership” which must be held “in a central register.” The parliament had already voted to make publicly accessible the real owners of companies and trusts in March 2014.¹⁴⁷⁷ Nevertheless, the member states led by Germany were attempting to restrict the information collected to just the name and date of birth of beneficial owners.¹⁴⁷⁸ Finally, the agreement was reached.¹⁴⁷⁹ A directive according to which the ultimate owners of companies would have to be listed in central registers in EU countries was adopted. Instead of opening the data to general public, the access to it was provided only to people with a “legitimate interest.”

Germany has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

On 2 December 2014, Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schäuble together with France’s Michel Sapin and Italy’s Pier Carlo Padoa-Schioppa issued a letter to economics and European Union tax commissioner Pierre Moscovici calling on greater harmonization and strategy in curbing tax evasion and avoidance.¹⁴⁸⁰ The three ministers noted the initiative on base erosion and profit sharing (BEPS) launched by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the G20. Therefore, the EU should also adopt a comprehensive anti-BEPS directive for member states by the end of 2015. In the course of fighting against tax evasion the ministers of the eurozone’s three biggest economies also addressed the creation of EU-wide beneficial ownership registers which would collect information on who is actually behind a company or other legal entity. Making these registers public would drastically limit the ability for anonymous companies to be used in money laundering,

¹⁴⁷⁷ Parliament Toughens Up Anti-Money Laundering Rules, European Parliament 11 March 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20140307IPR38110/>

¹⁴⁷⁸ Finance: Out Of Control? Beneficial Ownership Registers In EU States Won’t Be Made Completely Public, The Bureau Of Investigative Journalism 16 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/12/16/eu-set-to-fall-short-of-introducing-public-registers-of-beneficial-ownership/>

¹⁴⁷⁹ Money Laundering: Parliament And Council Negotiators Agree On Central Registers, European Parliament 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/content/20141216IPR02043/>

¹⁴⁸⁰ Germany, France And Italy Urge EU To Write Common Corporate Tax Laws, EurActiv 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/germany-france-and-italy-urge-eu-write-common-corporate-tax-laws-310489>

tax evasion and corruption.¹⁴⁸¹ This system will likely be created along with the framework of the Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (a single set of rules that companies operating within the EU could use to calculate their taxable profits).

Germany has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation, but hindered improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

India has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

The Prevention of Money-Laundering Rules, which entered into force in 2005, particularly Rule 9, include the definition of a beneficial owner, detailed for different types of clients.¹⁴⁸²

On 15 December 2014, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published anti-money laundering guidelines for urban cooperative banks, which inform financial institutions about a possible penalty in case of violating the law. Through these guidelines RBI tries to ensure that legal persons are provided with adequate beneficial ownership information.¹⁴⁸³

On 10 February 2015, the Forward Market Commission issued the Master Circular on Prevention of Money Laundering and Combating Financing of Terrorism. The document addresses money laundering and financing of terrorism in the commodity derivatives markets and, inter alia, establishes the requirements concerning the identification of beneficial owners.¹⁴⁸⁴

On 28 February 2015, India's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley stated that income concealment offence and tax evasion in relation to a foreign asset would become a criminal offence.¹⁴⁸⁵

¹⁴⁸¹ Germany, Italy & France Call For Strengthened Fight On Tax Avoidance, Registers Of Beneficial Ownership, Financial Transparency Coalition 3 December 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2014.

<http://www.financialtransparency.org/2014/12/03/germany-italy-france-call-for-strengthened-fight-on-tax-avoidance-registers-of-beneficial-ownership/>

¹⁴⁸² Verification of the records of the identity of clients, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://fiuindia.gov.in/notifications-rule9verification.htm>.

¹⁴⁸³ Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) Guidelines for Urban Co-operative Banks & Reserve Bank's expectation from Auditors, Ahmedabad Branch of Western India Regional Council of the Institute of Chartered Accounts of India 15 December 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://icaiahmedabad.com/KYC-AML-15-12-2014-SHRI-P-K-PRADHAN.pdf>.

¹⁴⁸⁴ Prevention of Money Laundering (Amendment) Act, 2012 (PMLA) – Master Circular, National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.ncdex.com/Downloads/Circulars/PDF/Prevention_Money_Laundering_Amendment_Act_2012_Master_Circular_10022015.pdf.

¹⁴⁸⁵ Union Budget 2015: Full text of finance minister's speech, Livemint 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/GlkyvubNVzBM2lsrW5pKjM/Union-Budget-2015-Full-text-of-finance-minister-Arun-Jaitle.html>.

India has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, but failed to strengthen international cooperation. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Indonesia has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

The term “beneficial owner” is incorporated in Indonesian legislation. In particular, the Bank Indonesia implements the anti-money laundering program providing for the identification of beneficial owners.¹⁴⁸⁶ Non-bank money changers are also obliged to meet the standards of identifying beneficial owners.¹⁴⁸⁷

However, during the compliance period no actions have been registered concerning the implementation of the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

Indonesia has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, but failed to strengthen international cooperation. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with the commitment on the beneficial ownership transparency.

The definition of beneficial owner used in Italy is contained within the EU Council Directive 2003/48/EC of 3 June 2003. According to the Article 2 of the directive “‘beneficial owner’ means any individual who receives an interest payment or any individual for whom an interest payment is secured, unless he provides evidence that it was not received or secured for his own benefit.”¹⁴⁸⁸

Italy participates in the European Union’s activities on financial security matters, and is subjected to the EU regulations in that sphere.

On 20 April 2015, the European Council adopted its position at first reading on new rules aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. The new directive and regulation, legally binding for all the EU members, are to strengthen the EU rules against money laundering and ensure consistency with the international approach, implementing the recommendations by the Financial

¹⁴⁸⁶ Bank Indonesia Regulation Number: 14/27/PBI/2012, Indonesia Financial Services Authority 28 December 2012. Access date: 17 April 2015. www.ojk.go.id/dl.php?i=2199.

¹⁴⁸⁷ Circular Letter No.12/10/DPM concerning the Standard Guidelines on the Implementation of Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Terrorism Program for Non-Bank Money Changer, Central Bank of Indonesia 30 March 2010. Access date: 17 April 2015. http://www.bi.go.id/en/peraturan/moneter/Pages/se_121010.aspx.

¹⁴⁸⁸ Council Directive 2003/48/EC, EUR-Lex.europa 3 June 2003. Date of access: 18 May 2015. <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:157:0038:0048:en:PDF>.

Action Task Force. The regulation contains, inter alia, requirements that beneficial owners are listed in central registers in EU countries, which are to be made accessible to the interested stakeholders.¹⁴⁸⁹

During the compliance period Italy has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving their domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as strengthening international cooperation with respect to beneficial ownership transparency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: -1

Japan has not complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Japan recognizes the importance of implementing measures in accordance with standards set by the Financial Action Task Force. On 30 March 2015, the Japan Financial Intelligence Centre published a report for 2014. One of its objectives is to elaborate methods and recommendations to prevent money laundering and establish companies' transparency.¹⁴⁹⁰

However, no concrete measures in the area of beneficial ownership transparency taken by Japan have been registered during the compliance period.

During the compliance period Japan has not taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related either to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, or strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

In Korea, legislation aimed at beneficial ownership identification and transparency is in force.¹⁴⁹¹ However, no new actions taken by Korea to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving either domestic frameworks, or international cooperation have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, Korea is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on the beneficial ownership transparency.

¹⁴⁸⁹ Money laundering: Council approves strengthened rules, European Council 20 April 2015. Date of access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/04/20-money-laundering-strengthened-rules/>.

¹⁴⁹⁰ JAFIC Annual Report 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

www.npa.go.jp/sosikihanzai/jafic/en/nenzihokoku_e/data/jafic_2014e.pdf

¹⁴⁹¹ Asia Tax Bulletin, Mayer Brown January 2015. Access date: 1 June 2015.

<http://www.mayerbrown.com/files/Publication/c14edcb5-ccae-4063-8fd8-968bb5ca191c/Presentation/PublicationAttachment/28783118-b012-4088-aa48-9afc71cfd88f/150210-ASI-TaxBulletin.pdf>.

Mexico has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

According to a 2014 report published by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on Mutual Evaluation of Mexico, “regarding transparency of legal persons, since the adoption of the MER [Mutual Evaluation Report] the authorities have focused on beneficial ownership requirements for financial institutions, as required for CDD [customer due diligence] purposes.”¹⁴⁹²

Mexico 2014 tax reform changed “liability for criminal offenses not only being that of the legal representative of the entity, but also of the sole administrator, chairman of the board of directors, general directors or managers or the person or persons who have powers of administration or ownership, as these persons have the power to prevent tax offenses from being committed.”¹⁴⁹³

In 2014 the Tax on Cash Deposits Law (*Ley del Impuesto sobre Depósitos en Efectivo*) was repealed. According to the Income Tax Law, “institutions that are part of the financial system must submit an annual report to the Tax Administration Service of all cumulative monthly deposits in excess of approximately USD1,000 made to the accounts of individual taxpayers and legal entities.”¹⁴⁹⁴

Mexico has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

On 4 March 2015, on the occasion of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto’s visit to the United Kingdom, Joint Mexico-United Kingdom Declaration was signed.¹⁴⁹⁵ It affirms both countries’ commitment to cooperate closely in the G20, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the World Trade Organization for promoting an open and transparent global economy, including implementation the FATF standards, in particular on beneficial ownership.

During the compliance period Mexico has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related both to improving their domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks as well as strengthening international cooperation with respect to beneficial ownership transparency. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Russia has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 24 November 2014, the Russian President signed the Federal Law on Amendments to Parts 1 and 2 of the Russian Federation Tax Code (Concerning Taxation of Profits of Controlled Foreign

¹⁴⁹² 7th Follow-Up Report Mutual Evaluation of Mexico, Financial Action Task Force, February 2014. Date of access: 27 August 2015. <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/mer/Follow-up-report-Mexico-2014.pdf> fo

¹⁴⁹³ Tax Reform 2014. Date of access: 5 April 2015.

<https://www.kpmg.com/MX/es/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/Estudios/2013/Tax-Reform-2014.pdf>.

¹⁴⁹⁴ Tax Reform 2014. Date of access: 5 April 2015.

<https://www.kpmg.com/MX/es/IssuesAndInsights/ArticlesPublications/Documents/Estudios/2013/Tax-Reform-2014.pdf>.

¹⁴⁹⁵ Joint Mexico-United Kingdom Declaration. Date of access: 5 April 2015. <http://en.presidencia.gob.mx/joint-mexico-uk-declaration/>.

Companies and Income of Foreign Organisations). It introduces the terms of beneficial ownership and controlled foreign companies, which are entities controlled by Russian tax residents.¹⁴⁹⁶

On 22 April 2015, the Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service adopted an instruction defining the procedure of providing information on beneficial owners involved in transactions subject to mandatory control or allegedly related to money laundering and financing of terrorism.¹⁴⁹⁷ The adoption was in line with the national action plan to address tax evasion and identifying beneficial owners of companies adopted by First Deputy Prime Minister Igor Shuvalov on 30 April 2014.¹⁴⁹⁸

Russia has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation.

On 17 April 2015, the Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service signed a cross-service agreement with the Financial Monitoring Service under the Central Bank of Azerbaijan. The agreement provides for cooperation and exchange of information related to money laundering and financing of terrorism, including information on beneficial ownership.¹⁴⁹⁹

During the compliance period Russia acted to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks and to strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Andrey Shelepov and Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: 0

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Saudi Arabia has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

On 8 April 2015, the Saudi Arabian parliament (Majlis Al-Shura) approved a draft agreement between the Kingdom and the Kyrgyz Republic on the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income. The agreement provides for exchange of information between relevant authorities concerning beneficial ownership.¹⁵⁰⁰

Saudi Arabia has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation, but failed to improve its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹⁴⁹⁶ Amendments to Tax Code introducing mechanism for taxation of controlled foreign companies' profits, President of Russia 25 November 2014. Access Date: 15 June 2015. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/47069>.

¹⁴⁹⁷ Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service Order No. 110 of 22 April 2015, Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service June 2015. Access Date: 15 June 2015. <http://www.fedsfm.ru/documents/rfm/1633>.

¹⁴⁹⁸ National action plan to address tax evasion and identifying beneficial owners of companies, Federal Financial Monitoring Service 30 April 2014. Access Date: 15 June 2015. <http://www.fedsfm.ru/documents/rfm/1087>.

¹⁴⁹⁹ Cross-service agreements, Federal Financial Monitoring Service 2015. Access Date: 15 June 2015. <http://www.fedsfm.ru/activity/bilateral-interagency-agreements>.

¹⁵⁰⁰ Majlis Al-Shura Holds its 28th Ordinary session, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia 8 April 2015. Access date: 18 May 2015. <http://www.mofa.gov.sa/sites/mofaen/ServicesAndInformation/news/GovernmentNews/Pages/ArticleID201548103521298.aspx>.

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on implementing the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.

On 15 April 2015, the government of South Africa approved the draft Financial Intelligence Centre Amendment Bill. According to the National Treasury Africa the bill is aimed at enhancing the country's "ability to combat financial crimes by proposing measures to address threats to the stability of South Africa's financial system posed by money laundering and terrorism financing" and addressing regulatory gaps identified in the 2009 Mutual Evaluation of the Financial Action Task Force and the International Monetary Fund's 2014 South Africa Financial Sector Assessment Programme Technical Note on anti-moneylaundering and countering terrorist finance. The bill introduces "the concepts of beneficial ownership, ongoing due diligence, and foreign and domestic prominent influential persons."¹⁵⁰¹

On 21 April 2015, the South African National Treasury published the draft bill and requested public comments to be sent by 31 May 2015. It was anticipated that the bill would be submitted to the government by June 2015.¹⁵⁰²

South Africa has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, but no efforts to strengthen international cooperation in this field has been registered. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

Turkey has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

On 4 March 2015, Deputy Undersecretary of the Ministry of Justice Selahaddin Menteş addressed the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) meeting during the Turkish G20 presidency. He mentioned that as a co-chair of the ACWG Turkey will concentrate on achieving progress in the joint G20 anti-corruption action, including in the area of beneficial ownership.¹⁵⁰³

However, no facts of Turkey implementing the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks have been found during the compliance period.

¹⁵⁰¹ MEDIA STATEMENT REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE AMENDMENT BILL, 2015, National Treasury of South Africa 21 April 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2015/2015042101%20-%20FIC%20Bill%202015%20%20Press%20Statement.pdf.

¹⁵⁰² MEDIA STATEMENT REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE CENTRE AMENDMENT BILL, 2015, National Treasury of South Africa 21 April 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2015/2015042101%20-%20FIC%20Bill%202015%20%20Press%20Statement.pdf.

¹⁵⁰³ First G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting held in Istanbul, G20 Turkey 2015 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <https://g20.org/first-g20-anti-corruption-working-group-meeting-held-in-istanbul/>.

Turkey has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to strengthening international cooperation, but failed to improve its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

The UK has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 26 March 2015, the UK parliament passed into law the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Act 2015. The act provided for the establishment of a central public register of those individuals who hold significant control of UK companies. Companies will be required to maintain their own registries from January 2016 and provide this information to Companies House for inclusion on the public register from April 2016.¹⁵⁰⁴

The UK has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving international cooperation.

On 28 January 2015, the UK and Singapore held the inaugural Financial Dialogue. The participants identified areas of joint interest and made a commitment for further collaboration across a number of issues, in particular sharing experiences related to the “implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards set out in the G20 High Level Principles on transparency of beneficial ownership.”¹⁵⁰⁵

On 2 April 2015, representatives of the UK Treasury and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office reportedly signed a letter to the Virgin Islands officials asking the territory to consider establishing a publicly searchable registry of corporate beneficial ownership. A similar letter was previously sent to the Cayman Islands officials.¹⁵⁰⁶

The UK has implemented the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency both to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, and strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

¹⁵⁰⁴ Boost for firms as Small Business Act becomes law, UK Government 26 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-firms-as-small-business-act-becomes-law>.

¹⁵⁰⁵ UK and Singapore hold inaugural financial dialogue, UK Government 28 January 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-singapore-hold-inaugural-financial-dialogue>.

¹⁵⁰⁶ UK writes again on beneficial ownership, BVI Beacon 2 April 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015.

<http://www.bvibeacon.com/1/index.php/local/6586-uk-writes-again-on-beneficial-ownership>.

The US has a definition of beneficial owner.¹⁵⁰⁷ Before the period under review the US made several proposals on beneficial ownership transparency, such as in March 2014, the White House proposed Beneficial Ownership Legislation requiring the Internal Revenue Service to collect information on beneficial owners of any legal entity in any state and providing access to that information for law enforcement.¹⁵⁰⁸

However, the US has a reputation of one of the biggest centres where a company can keep its ownership anonymous.¹⁵⁰⁹ During the period under review no facts of efforts taken by the US to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks were registered.

Still the United States has taken steps aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the sphere of beneficial ownership transparency. The US has continued to push forward its Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) project. Enacted by Congress in 2010, FATCA requires U.S. citizens to report their financial accounts held abroad and all foreign financial organizations to report assets of such persons to the US Treasury. FATCA-related information is shared between the U.S. and other countries under bilateral deals called intergovernmental agreements.

During the compliance period the U.S. has signed 11 FATCA intergovernmental agreements with Barbados, Moldova, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Curacao, Qatar, Kosovo, Belarus, Croatia, Uzbekistan and Kuwait.¹⁵¹⁰

During the period under review the United States has taken steps aimed at strengthening international cooperation in the sphere of beneficial ownership transparency but has failed to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment on financial regulation.

The EU has taken actions to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks.

On 18 March 2015, the European Commission presented a tax transparency package to provide greater openness of member states' corporate tax regimes, make companies more accountable for their tax practices and tackle corporate tax avoidance effectively. In order to achieve these goals the members will be obliged to exchange information on their tax rulings. This package will also help the

¹⁵⁰⁷ Regulation 13D-G, Title 17, Chapter II, Part 240, Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. Date of Access: 5 May 2015. http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=8e0ed509ccc65e983f9eca72ceb26753&node=17:4.0.1.1.1&rgn=div5#se17.4.240_113d_63.

¹⁵⁰⁸ Beneficial Ownership Legislation Proposal, The White House Blog, Caroline Atkinson 4 April 2014. Date of Access: 5 May 2015. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/04/04/beneficial-ownership-legislation-proposal>.

¹⁵⁰⁹ E.g.: Financial Secrecy Index, USA 7 November 2013. Date of Access: 12 April 2015. <http://www.financialsecrecyindex.com/PDF/USA.pdf>.

¹⁵¹⁰ FATCA - Archive, The U.S. Department of the Treasury. Date of Access: 30 April 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/tax-policy/treaties/Pages/FATCA-Archive.aspx>.

tax authorities to gather adequate, accurate and current information regarding the beneficial ownership of legal persons.¹⁵¹¹

On 20 April 2015, the European Council adopted its position at first reading on new rules aimed at preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. The new directive and regulation, legally binding for all the EU member states, are to strengthen the EU rules against money laundering and ensure consistency with the international approach, implementing the recommendations by the Financial Action Task Force. The regulation contains, inter alia, requirements that beneficial owners are listed in central registers in EU countries, which are to be made accessible to the interested stakeholders.¹⁵¹²

European Union has acted to implement the G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency related to improving its domestic legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks, but not on strengthening international cooperation. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

¹⁵¹¹ Combatting corporate tax avoidance: Commission presents Tax Transparency, European Commission 18 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-4609_en.htm

¹⁵¹² Money laundering: Council approves strengthened rules, European Council 20 April 2015. Date of access: 19 May 2015. <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2015/04/20-money-laundering-strengthened-rules/>.

14. Development: Remittances

“We commit to take strong practical measures to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances to five per cent and to enhance financial inclusion as a priority.”

G20 Brisbane Leaders' Declaration

Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina	-1		
Australia		0	
Brazil	-1		
Canada		0	
China		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan	-1		
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union		0	
Average		-0.25	

Background

Remittance payments are defined as transfers of money from migrant workers to individuals back in his or her home country. Remittance payments count as one of the largest forms of financial flows to developing countries, estimated to be at a sum of USD454 billion in 2015.¹⁵¹³ In previous years global remittance payments have significantly exceeded global payments in official development assistance (ODA), such as in 2013 when remittance payments were three times larger than the annual ODA.¹⁵¹⁴ Notably, remittances to and from G20 countries account for nearly 80% of world's total remittance flows.¹⁵¹⁵

¹⁵¹³ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵¹⁴ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵¹⁵ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlanToFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

However, there are quite significant transaction costs on remittance payments. The global average cost is calculated as the average total cost for sending USD200.¹⁵¹⁶ At the end of 2014, the World Bank estimated the global average cost of sending remittance transfers to equal approximately 7.9% of the aggregate value sent.¹⁵¹⁷ As of Q4 2014, the average remittance costs of sending to the G20 countries have converged to become exactly equal to the global average cost of 7.9%.¹⁵¹⁸ However, the average remittance costs of sending from the G20 countries are 8.06%.¹⁵¹⁹

The main factors driving remittance costs include migration costs, passport costs, exchange rates and the fees associated with sending remittance.¹⁵²⁰ However, with the increase in electronic and mobile remittance systems, transaction costs continue to fall.¹⁵²¹ Though, these services are greatly limited in many regions of the world and furthermore come with a number of reliability and institutional problems.

Since the 2004 G8 Sea Island Summit, which created the Global Remittances Initiative in partnership with the World Bank, countries have began taking measures to reduce these high average costs.¹⁵²²

The G20 has made several commitments throughout the years to reduce the global average costs of remittance payments. Beginning in 2010 at the Seoul Summit, G20 members agreed, through the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, to lower the average costs of remittance payments.¹⁵²³ At the Cannes Summit in 2011, the G20 members committed to “work to reduce the average cost of transferring remittances from 10 to 5 per cent by 2014, contributing to release an additional USD15 billion per year for recipient families.”¹⁵²⁴ In 2012 at the Los Cabos summit, these sentiments were reiterated alongside a request to the World Bank to report every six months on remittance cost progress.¹⁵²⁵

¹⁵¹⁶ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵¹⁷ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵¹⁸ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵¹⁹ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵²⁰ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵²¹ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵²² Fact Sheet: Applying the Power of Entrepreneurship to the Eradication of Poverty, G8 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2004. Access Date: 6 February 2015. http://www.g8.utoronto.ca/summit/2004seaisland/fact_poverty.html

¹⁵²³ Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, 27 June 2010. Access Date: 6 February 2015. www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-consensus.pdf

¹⁵²⁴ Cannes Summit Final Declaration – Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, 4 November 2011. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

¹⁵²⁵ 2012 Progress Report of the Development Working Group, 19 June 2012. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-dwg.html>

Most recently in 2013 at the St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 members pledged to “consider in 2014 innovative results-based mechanisms to further reduce the cost of transferring remittances to developing countries.”¹⁵²⁶

Notably, global average costs have been declining as of recent, dropping in a full 1% from 8.9% to 7.9% since 2013.¹⁵²⁷

Commitment Features

G20 members have made significant progress in reducing remittance costs and are recommitting to a 5% reduction target. Members realize that remittance payments play an integral role in long-term social and economic development and financial inclusion. Accordingly, they have committed to, both domestically and internationally, take strong practical measures to meet their targets.

Both the G20 Development Working Group and the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion vis-à-vis the Financial Inclusion Action Plan have proposed a number of recommendations to the G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows on how to take strong practical measures. Collectively, these groups seek innovative methods and networks to improve their current policies.

Accordingly, the G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows outlines, in their Country Plans for Reducing Remittance Transfer Costs, a number of methods in which countries can take to meet their reduction target. It proposes four “strong practical measures” for reducing remittance costs and increasing access to affordable remittances.

- 1) “increase remittance market competitiveness” by means of facilitating the entrance of more retail payment systems (RPSs) and improving the supervision of RPSs in order to undermine anti-competitive practices.¹⁵²⁸
- 2) “improve financial system infrastructure and technology” by supporting the innovation and widespread usage of these new RSP technology.¹⁵²⁹
- 3) “improve transparency and consumer protection of remittance transfers.” This can be done by boosting transparency of RSPs, bulwarking consumer legal protection, and increasing RSP regulation.”¹⁵³⁰
- 4) “improving financial inclusion and development impact of remittances.” This can be done by enhancing the financial literacy of consumers, offering remittance price databases for customers to compare costs, and discouraging taxes on migrant remittance transfers.¹⁵³¹

These four methods proposed in the Country Plans for Reducing Remittance Transfer Costs outline the various methods of compliance for G20 members to take.

¹⁵²⁶ G20 Research Group: Final 2013 St. Petersburg G20 Final Compliance Report, 15 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2014. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/2013stpetersburg-final/index.html>

¹⁵²⁷ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf>

¹⁵²⁸ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlantoFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵²⁹ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlantoFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵³⁰ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlantoFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵³¹ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlantoFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

As remittances to and from G20 countries account for nearly 80% of world's total remittance flows,¹⁵³² this report will also highlight the current costs of remittance in each G20 country. Consequently, this will have a substantial impact on the global average cost of transferring remittances. Thus, full compliance will awarded to member countries that take action on all four measures outlined above to enhance access to affordable remittances, and is able to meet the target of 5%.¹⁵³³

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member country does not take any measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.
0	Member country takes some measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.
+1	Member country takes all measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

Argentina: -1

Argentina has failed to comply with its commitment on remittances facilitation.

The government of Argentina has not released any figures on current remittance costs. The World Bank estimated the average cost for Latin American countries to be 6.03% in the last quarter of 2014.¹⁵³⁴ This is an increase from 6.02% in the third quarter of 2014 and 5.57% in the second quarter of 2014.

In the last quarter of 2014, strict foreign exchange controls in Argentina impacted remittance transactions costs to Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru.¹⁵³⁵ The government of Argentina has stated that it will begin to lift foreign exchange controls in 2015; however, there has been no easing in restrictions as of 28 February 2015.¹⁵³⁶

Argentina has not taken action to enhance access to affordable remittances in this cycle and it has not met the 5% reduction target. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Meghan King

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to reduce the cost of transferring remittances to 5% and to enhance access to affordable remittances.

As of January 2015 the average cost of sending remittances in Australia was 8.92%, up from 8.88% in Q3 of 2014.¹⁵³⁷

¹⁵³² G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015.

<http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20PlanToFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵³³ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵³⁴ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵³⁵ Migration and Remittances: Recent Developments and Outlook, The World Bank (Washington) 6 October 2014.

Access Date: 6 February 2015. [http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf)

[1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTPROSPECTS/Resources/334934-1288990760745/MigrationandDevelopmentBrief23.pdf)

¹⁵³⁶ Argentina to Ease Currency Controls For Importers – Central Bank, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 9 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/09/argentina-imports-idUSL5N0VJ4I520150209>.

¹⁵³⁷ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

In December 2014, Westpac Bankpac Corp announced that it would exit the global remittance business. Westpac, along with several other Australian banks, has closed remittance accounts citing rising compliance costs and fear of breaching strict terrorism financing and anti-money laundering laws.¹⁵³⁸ This will result in negative effects on the remittance industry since money transfers to some countries, such as Somalia, will no longer be possible using conventional banking services.¹⁵³⁹

In December 2014, the Australian government created a working group between Somali remitters and the banking sector aimed at addressing the closures.¹⁵⁴⁰

On 2 February 2015, the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre released the Post Implementation Review (PIR) of antimoneylaundering/countering terrorist finance rules in chapters 58 and 59 relating to the cancellation and suspension of remitter registrations. The PIR seeks stakeholder views on the operation of the rules and their impact.¹⁵⁴¹ These policies will allow for more effective regulation over remittance service providers.

Australia has taken some measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances and financial inclusion. However, it has experienced setbacks from the withdrawal of banks from the remittance business and has failed to meet the 5% target for the cost of transferring remittances. Therefore, Australia receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Leslie Woods

Brazil: -1

Brazil has failed to comply with its commitment to reduce remittance costs to a 5% target and enhance access to affordable remittances.

In Q4 2014, the cost of sending remittances in Brazil was 4.74%.¹⁵⁴²

As of 28 February 2015, there is no publically available information demonstrating that Brazil has taken action to enhance access to affordable remittances during the compliance cycle.

Thus, Brazil is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Bushra Ebadi

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with the commitment on remittances.

¹⁵³⁸ Banks closure of remittances may pose a 'security risk', Send Money Pacific (Australia) 18 November 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2015. <http://www.sendmoneypacific.org/news/fiji/article/613/banks-closure-of-remittances-may-pose-a-security-risk.html>

¹⁵³⁹ UPDATE 1-Australia's Westpac to Quit Remittance Business by March 31, Reuters (New York) 22 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/12/22/australia-remittances-westpac-idUSL3N0U61NF20141222>

¹⁵⁴⁰ Cutting Remittance Lifeline Will Deepen Somali Crisis, Oxfam Australia (Melbourne) 19 February 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <https://www.oxfam.org.au/media/2015/02/cutting-remittance-lifeline-will-deepen-somali-crisis-oxfam/>

¹⁵⁴¹ Post Implementation Review of AML/CTF Rules in Chapters 58 and 59 relating to the cancellation and suspension of remitter registrations, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (Melbourne) 2 February 2015. Access Date: 5 April 2015. <http://www.austrac.gov.au/news/post-implementation-review-amlctf-rules-chapters-58-and-59-relating-cancellation-and-suspension>

¹⁵⁴² Remittance Prices Worldwide, World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Date of Access: 25 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

In the last quarter of 2014, the average cost of sending remittances from Canada increased from 9.31% to 9.52%.¹⁵⁴³

As of 28 February 2015, there is no publically available information demonstrating that Canada has taken action to enhance access to affordable remittances during the compliance cycle.

Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Meghan King

China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

In Q3 and Q4 2014 the cost of receiving remittances has stayed at 10.49%.¹⁵⁴⁴ In Q1 2015 the cost of receiving remittances increased to 10.54%.¹⁵⁴⁵

On 9 December 2014, the Bank of China announced that it, in partnership with Western Union, will begin providing money transfer services at its branches in mainland China. Beginning in January, “the services are expected to allow consumers to receive international remittances at over 10,000 Bank of China locations.”¹⁵⁴⁶

China has taken some initiative to enhance access to affordable remittances, but has failed to take action in all measures. Thus, China has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Pin Hui Chen

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment on reducing the average cost of remittances and enhancing access to affordable remittances.

As of January 2015, France’s average cost of sending remittances is at 10.70%, down from 10.74% in Q3 of 2014.¹⁵⁴⁷

On 5–6 December 2014, the Foundation for International Development Assistance (FIDA) held a workshop in Paris on remittance and money transfer mechanisms for investment in rural Senegal. The workshop included representatives from FIDA, the government of France and the government of Senegal. Stéphane Gallet of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, alongside Florence Armitano-Grivel of the Agence française du développement (AFD), presented the government’s intervention strategy for 10 priority sectors. Pape Birama Thiam, representing the Programme d’Appui aux Initiatives de Solidarité pour le Développement (PAISD), presented opportunities to formalize partnerships and continue investments for social and structural program

¹⁵⁴³ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf.

¹⁵⁴⁴ Remittance Prices Around the World, The World Bank, 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁴⁵ Remittance Prices Around the World, The World Bank, 2015. Access Date: 2 March 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁴⁶ Bank of China to Offer Western Union Money Transfer Service, Western Union 9 December 2014. Date of Access: 06 April 2015. <http://ir.westernunion.com/News/Press-Releases/Press-Release-Details/2014/Bank-of-China-to-Offer-Western-Union-Money-Transfer-Service/default.aspx>.

¹⁵⁴⁷ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

financed by immigrants based in France. The workshop identified strategies moving forward, including complementary studies, reporting and restorative workshops.¹⁵⁴⁸

On 20 January 2015, AFD, with the support of PAISD, organized a local workshop on migration and development in Dakar. In 2014, AFD requested Grdr, in partnership with l'Institut fondamental d'Afrique noire (Ifan) to conduct a study in the Senegal River Basin, Paris, and in France. The study asked how to integrate the factor of mobility in local development strategies and how to optimise the role of migrant in governance and economic development in their country of origin.¹⁵⁴⁹

France has taken partial action on reducing transactional remittance costs and enhancing access to affordable remittance. Thus, France has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Ariel Sim

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with the commitment on reducing its remittance costs and enhancing access to affordable remittances.

According to the World Bank, Germany's average remittance cost in the fourth quarter of 2014 rose to 8.43%.¹⁵⁵⁰ It had increased by 0.86% from the average of 7.76% in the third quarter.¹⁵⁵¹

On 6 December 2014, professionals from the nursing and tourism sector of Georgia, were selected to participate in the pilot circular migration scheme, carried out by the Centre for International Migration and Development (GIM) (a joint operation of the "Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit: (GIZ) and the German Federal Employment Agency). The scheme includes a training program to train migrants in financial literacy and remittances services.

Although Germany has implemented some new policies to enhance access to more affordable remittances, it has not taken action on all four measures. Thus, Germany has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst Natalia Valencia

India: 0

India has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

As of January 2015, the cost of transferring remittances was reported as 6.88% down from 7% in Q3 2014.¹⁵⁵²

¹⁵⁴⁸ Compte-Rendu Executif: Atelier Sur L'Investissement des Migrants en Millieur Rural au Sénégal, FIDA (Paris) January 2015. Access Date: 20 March 2015. http://www.ifad.org/events/remittances/2014/atelier/atelier_report.pdf

¹⁵⁴⁹ France-Sénégal: Étude sur la dimension locale de la dialectique Migration et Développement, AFD, 20 January 2015. Access date: 3 April 2015. <http://www.envoirdargent.fr/content/france-s%C3%A9n%C3%A9gal-etude-sur-la-dimension-locale-de-la-dialectique-migration-et-d%C3%A9veloppement>.

¹⁵⁵⁰ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁵¹ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁵² Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

On 5 February 2015, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased its foreign exchange remittance limit to USD 250,000.¹⁵⁵³

In November 2014, under the Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS), RBI allowed the receipt of foreign remittances to go directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The Indian bank is to act like an agent under the MTSS Act, by transferring foreign inward remittances directly into the bank account of the beneficiary.¹⁵⁵⁴ This eliminates the money transfer company as a middleman and reduces the associated costs by 30% in a few cases. By December 2014, several banks have been able to lower the cost of transfers by 30% by allowing direct transfer of money into accounts from those in the United States and the United Kingdom.¹⁵⁵⁵ In late 2014, Saudi Arabia had reduced its remittance costs by 3% and India is hopeful that other members of the G20 will do the same.¹⁵⁵⁶

On 3 December 2014, amendments to the foreign exchange management of remittances, through the Reserve Bank of India, were proposed.¹⁵⁵⁷ Effective as of 22 January 2015, these amendments now state that remittances of a salary outside of India can be affected for those employees on deputation to a group company in India. In addition, past reform strategies to improve financial inclusion continue to be carried out.¹⁵⁵⁸

On 26 January 2015, India worked with the United States Agency for International Development, the Calvert Foundation, and numerous financial institutions to create the Indian Diaspora Investment Initiative. This initiative will allow American-Indians and financial institutions to provide critical financing for Indian businesses and Indian infrastructure projects. This initiative will work to facilitate greater remittance flows to India from the United States.¹⁵⁵⁹

India has taken new measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances and has continued to work on preceding measures and initiatives to increase financial inclusion. Thus, India is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Jasjit Goraya

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has failed to comply with its commitment on remittances.

¹⁵⁵³ Reserve Bank of India Doubles Forex Remittance Limit Up to \$250000, India Today 5 February 2015. Access Date: 17 April 2015. [http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/reserve-bank-of-india-doubles-forex-remittance-limit-upto-\\$250000/1/417124.html](http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/reserve-bank-of-india-doubles-forex-remittance-limit-upto-$250000/1/417124.html)

¹⁵⁵⁴ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20, November 2014. Access Date: 6 February 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlanToFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵⁵⁵ India to press G20 for deadline to Cut Remittance Costs – sources, Reuters (Delhi) 4 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/india-g-idINKCNOJ110N20141204>.

¹⁵⁵⁶ India to press G20 for deadline to Cut Remittance Costs – sources, Reuters (Delhi) 4 December 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/12/04/india-g-idINKCNOJ110N20141204>.

¹⁵⁵⁷ Foreign Exchange Management Act Notification, Reserve Bank of India 3 December 2014. Access Date: 28 February 2015. https://rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_FemaNotifications.aspx?id=9470.

¹⁵⁵⁸ Master Circular on Remittance Facilities for Non-Resident Indians - Persons of Indian Origin - Foreign National, Reserve Bank of India 22 January 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015. http://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_ViewMasCirculardetails.aspx?id=8997.

¹⁵⁵⁹ New Initiative Accounted to Enable Diaspora Investment in India's Development, USAID Press Office (Washington) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 6 April 2015. <http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jan-26-2015-new-initiative-announced-enable-diaspora-investment-indias>.

According to the World Bank, between Q3 to Q4 2014, domestic costs of receiving remittances in Indonesia shifted upwards from 7.32% to 7.34%.¹⁵⁶⁰ However, in eastern and central region of the world, where Indonesia is located, the average remittance costs have gone down 7.67 to 7.54.¹⁵⁶¹

As of 28 February 2015, there is no publically available information that demonstrates Indonesia has attempted to reduce remittance costs or improve access to affordable remittances, within the compliance cycle.

Indonesia has taken no action on enhancing access to affordable remittances and it has not met the 5% target. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Ben Fickling

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to reduce the cost of transferring remittances to 5% and to enhance access to affordable remittances.

The cost of sending remittances from Italy was 6.73% in the fourth quarter of 2014, down from 6.83% in the third quarter of 2014.¹⁵⁶² Thus, Italy does not meet the target of 5%.

On 30 November 2014, a report by the Centre for International Policy Studies indicated that there is a downward trend in the cost of sending remittances from Italy, as a result of a plurality of operators committed to achieving the 5% target.¹⁵⁶³ These improvements are also a result of measures such as the: introduction of innovative tools, the use of rechargeable cards, and the introduction of new online remittance services such as World Remit, Xendpay and TransferWise.¹⁵⁶⁴

Italy has taken measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances. However, it has failed to meet the 5% target for the cost of transferring remittances. Therefore, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Leslie Woods

Japan: -1

Japan has failed to comply with its commitment to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

Between Q3 to Q4 2014 the cost of sending remittance in Japan decreased from 13.74% to 13.28%.¹⁵⁶⁵ However, it has increased slightly to 13.43% in Q1 of 2015.¹⁵⁶⁶

¹⁵⁶⁰ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶¹ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶² Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶³ The Database of the Italian Remittance Costs, Centre for International Policy Studies. 30 November 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.mandasoldiacasa.it/sites/default/files/Analisi%20dati_nov_14_ITA_def.pdf

¹⁵⁶⁴ The Database of the Italian Remittance Costs, Centre for International Policy Studies. 30 November 2014. Access Date: 27 February 2015. http://www.mandasoldiacasa.it/sites/default/files/Analisi%20dati_nov_14_ITA_def.pdf

¹⁵⁶⁵ Remittance Prices Around the World, The World Bank 2015. Access Date: 6 April 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_march_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶⁶ Remittance Prices Around the World, The World Bank, 2015. Access Date: 6 April 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_march_2015.pdf

As of 28 February 2015, there is no publically available information that demonstrates Japan has attempted to reduce remittance costs or improve access to affordable remittances, within the compliance cycle.

Thus, Japan has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Pin Hui Chen

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with its commitment on remittances.

Between Q3 and Q4 2014, the domestic cost of sending remittances in Korea increased from 6.0% to 6.2%.¹⁵⁶⁷ However, in the eastern and central region of the world, where Korea is located, the average remittance costs have gone down 7.67 to 7.54 from Q3 to Q4 of 2014.¹⁵⁶⁸

On 15 December 2014, the Bank of Korea announced a new policy that will allow for real-time remittances and lower transfer fees to Vietnamese banks.¹⁵⁶⁹

Korea has taken some action to reduce the cost of remittances, however it has not taken action on all four measures. Thus, Korea has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Ben Fickling

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment on reducing the average cost of remittances and enhancing access to affordable remittances.

Mexico has further reduced the average cost of receiving remittances from 4.48% to 4.37% from Q3 to Q4 of 2014.¹⁵⁷⁰

On 3 February 2015, Directo a México updated its online tools for transferring money. Transfers originate from bank accounts in the United States and are sent anywhere in Mexico. As the recipient receives the funds at no cost, this demonstrates improved access to affordable remittances.¹⁵⁷¹ In December 2014, 37,498 transfers amounting in USD 22,401,852 were processed by Directo a México, and 37,011 transfers amounting in USD 21,577,919 were processed in January 2015.¹⁵⁷²

¹⁵⁶⁷ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶⁸ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁶⁹ Real Time Remittances to Vietnam Now Available, Business Korea 15 December 2015. Access Date: 17 April 2015.

<http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/article/7867/korea-vietnam-remittance-real-time-remittances-vietnam-now-available>

¹⁵⁷⁰ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015.

https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁷¹ Como Usar Directo a México, Directo a México. Access Date: 20 March 2015.

<http://www.directoamexico.com/comousar.html>

¹⁵⁷² Sistemas de Pago de Bajo Valor, Banco de Mexico (Mexico City). Access Date: 20 March 2015.

<http://www.banxico.org.mx/SieInternet/consultarDirectorioInternetAction.do?accion=consultarCuadro&idCuadro=CF311§or=21&locale=es>

On 25 February 2015, the Bank of Mexico published an updated 2014 Annual Balance of Payments report that cited a surplus of 23.877 million in the transfer account from remittances from family members abroad, an increase of 7.8% from the previous year, and an average value of USD 294.¹⁵⁷³

Mexico has implemented some policies to reduce transfer costs and improve access to affordable remittances during the compliance period. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Ariel Sim

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on remittances.

On 10 February 2015, the Russian Ministry of Finance announced its plans to start working on the national financial literacy strategy in 2015 in partnership with relevant governmental bodies and private sector. The strategy will define the objectives of the government in the area of increasing financial literacy for the mid-term perspective.¹⁵⁷⁴

On 13 February 2015, the Bank of Russia Expert Board on Financial Literacy in the Activities of Non-Bank Financial Institutions (NFI) held its first meeting. The participants discussed measures aimed at strengthening financial literacy regarding NFI instruments and services.¹⁵⁷⁵

On 3 March 2015, the Bank of Russia revealed its draft program on improving financial literacy. The program provides for the creation of a specialized website, launching relevant TV programs and developing a financial literacy study course for schools.¹⁵⁷⁶

According to the G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, the Russian national financial literacy strategy and program on improving financial literacy will “help lower the cost of transferring remittances by harmonizing regulation, increasing the efficiency of payment systems infrastructure, and fostering innovative low-cost products such as digital and mobile payments.”¹⁵⁷⁷

The average cost of sending remittances from Russia increased from 2.44% in Q4 2014 to 2.82% in Q1 2015.¹⁵⁷⁸ However, it is still well below the G20 5% target.

During the compliance period Russia has discussed measures aimed at reducing remittance transfer costs, but failed to take concrete actions to address this issue. Its sending cost has increased, although still staying below the G20 target of 5%. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

¹⁵⁷³ La Balanza de Pagos en 2014, Banco de Mexico (Mexico City) 25 February 2015. Access Date: 20 March 2015. <http://www.banxico.org.mx/informacion-para-la-prensa/comunicados/sector-externo/balanza-de-pagos/%7BAEE2CBD4-2C71-DA27-336B-8F558037ED1E%7D.pdf>

¹⁵⁷⁴ International conference on financial literacy and access to finance, Russian Ministry of Finance 10 February 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. http://minfin.ru/ru/press-center/?id_4=33087.

¹⁵⁷⁵ On meeting of Bank of Russia Expert Board on Financial Literacy in NFI activities, Bank of Russia 13 February 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. http://www.cbr.ru/eng/press/PR.aspx?file=13022015_164508eng_sbrfr2015-02-13T16_40_43.htm.

¹⁵⁷⁶ Central Bank has prepared a program of increasing financial literacy of the Russians, Interfax 3 March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. <http://www.interfax.ru/business/427633>.

¹⁵⁷⁷ G20 plan to facilitate remittance flows, G20 Australia November 2014. Access date: 14 May 2015. http://g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_plan_facilitate_remittance_flows.pdf.

¹⁵⁷⁸ Remittance Prices Worldwide, Issue n. 13, World Bank March 2015. Access date: 14 May 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_march_2015.pdf.

Saudi Arabia: –1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with the commitment on reducing its remittance costs.

According to the World Bank, Saudi Arabia's average outgoing transfer cost in the Q4 2014 for sending USD200 is below the 5% target, at 4.41%,¹⁵⁷⁹ a 0.56% increase from Q3.¹⁵⁸⁰

Despite being below the 5% target, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency is “continually reviewing and monitoring prices of remittances and relevant exchange fees” to ensure that transfer fees are fairly divided between consumers and banks.”¹⁵⁸¹

Although it has continued to monitor prices and service quality, it has not taken further measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances during this compliance period. Thus, Saudi Arabia has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Natalia Valencia

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on remittances.

South Africa is the most costly G20 country for remittance sending, at an average of 19.76%.¹⁵⁸²

On 4-5 March 2015, South Africa, in tandem with the International Fund for Agricultural Development, hosted the first African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks. This conference will focus on “finding ways to leverage this powerful financial and development force by making remittance services more affordable and accessible to rural people [in Africa].”¹⁵⁸³

South Africa has taken limited action to enhance access to affordable remittance during this compliance period. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Mariel Seymour

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to reduce remittance costs to the 5% reduction target and to improve access to affordable remittances.

Between Q3 2014 to Q4 2014, Turkey has reduced its receiving remittance rate from 6.91% to 6.42%.¹⁵⁸⁴

¹⁵⁷⁹ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 23 February 2015.
https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁸⁰ "Report on the Remittance Agenda of the G20." The World Bank. 2014. Access Date: 7 April 2015.
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTFINANCIALSECTOR/Resources/282884-1400093105293/GPFI_Remittances_Report_Final072014.pdf

¹⁵⁸¹ G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows, Group of 20 November 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2015.
<http://www.international.gc.ca/g20/assets/pdfs/G20-PlanToFacilitateRemittanceFlows.pdf>

¹⁵⁸² Remittance Prices Worldwide – Issue N.12, World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 22 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁸³ First African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks Addresses Cost of Sending Money, International Fund for Agricultural Development 2 March 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2015.
<http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2015/16.htm>

¹⁵⁸⁴ Remittance Prices Worldwide, World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 25 February 2015.
https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

On 13 February 2015, in the Turkish 2015 Priorities Paper, Turkey has shown interest in making remittance cost reductions a priority as part of its G20 presidency. It has identified four challenges to reducing the global average cost of sending remittances to 5%: addressing the closure of bank accounts of money transfer operators; correcting inadequate market competition; dealing with the lack of transparency in the remittance markets; and improving the weak coordination between sending and receiving countries.¹⁵⁸⁵

Turkey achieved only partial compliance in regards to reducing remittance costs and improving access to affordable remittances. Thus, Turkey is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Bushra Ebadi

United Kingdom: 0

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

In Q2 2015, the first transactions of the “Safer Corridor Pilot” will begin. The “safer corridor pilot” program performs numerous planned interventions at key stages of the remittances transaction. Stage one entails money service business in the UK taking the money, the second is clearing the house in the United Arab Emirates, followed by the third stage, which is to get funds to their end destination in Somalia. The objective of this project is to ensure the secure flow of remittances to Somalia and to build the banks confidence so that they continue engagement and financial transactions. This project is led by the Department for International Development and has been implemented by the World Bank. The design element of the project was completed at the end of April 2015.¹⁵⁸⁶

In January 2015, the UK Parliament’s “Action Group on Cross Border Remittances” was coming up with a financial plan that will make transferring money to developing nations more affordable. As of late 2014 the cost of remitting from the UK varies according to the destination country and transfer method.¹⁵⁸⁷ The UK’s average cost of sending remittances is 7.55% as of January 2015, down from 7.56% in Q3 2014.¹⁵⁸⁸

¹⁵⁸⁵ Turkish 2015 Priorities Report, Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion 13 February 2015. Access Date: 28 February 2015.

<http://www.gpfi.org/sites/default/files/documents/Turkish%202015%20GPFI%20Priorities%20Paper.pdf>

¹⁵⁸⁶ Revised Terms of Reference for the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances," The UK Government (London) January 2015. Access Date: 10 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418688/15-03-20_SCP_Stakeholder_Engagement_Summary.pdf.

¹⁵⁸⁷ Revised Terms of Reference for the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances," The UK Government (London) January 2015. Access Date: 10 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418688/15-03-20_SCP_Stakeholder_Engagement_Summary.pdf.

¹⁵⁸⁸ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) 12 January 2015. Access Date: 12 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

In December 2014, the “Action Group on Cross Border Remittances” reached a consensus to extend its work for another year. This means the group will continue to meet in 2015 to ensure the remittances system operates efficiently.¹⁵⁸⁹

In December 2014, the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances defined its objectives to be: 1) to monitor developments in the UK remittances market; 2) monitor remittances flows and decisions by the formal banking institutions of the nation; 3) integrate law enforcement into any financial plans so that there is a general understanding of the legal stipulations concerning remittances; 4) advise on any relevant technical issues which have an impact on remittances; and 5) ensure close monitoring and development of a safer corridor initiative for UK-Somalia exchanges.¹⁵⁹⁰

The UK has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to improve access to more affordable remittances by working with the financial sector and crucial stakeholders to achieve program goals. Thus, UK is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Jasjit Goraya

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

The US has experienced an increase in the cost of remittances from 5.92% to 5.97% in Q4 2014.¹⁵⁹¹

On 26 January 2015 at the US-India Business Summit held in New Delhi, US President Barack Obama announced a new partnership of the US Agency for International Development, the Calvert Foundation and numerous private financial institutions within India for the purposes of developing an Indian Diaspora Investment Initiative. The purposes of such an initiative is to give Indian Americans an outlet for financing Indian businesses, which are investing in non-traditional markets. This can mean anything from healthcare, improving water sanitation, registering new bank accounts, poverty alleviation efforts in rural communities, etc.¹⁵⁹²

On 15 January 2015, the US government announced that new diplomatic measures with Cuba will facilitate and allow increased remittances to Cuba. This measure will work with both Cuban nationals and US financial institutions to increase access to remittances in the United States and Cuba.¹⁵⁹³

¹⁵⁸⁹ Revised Terms of Reference for the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances," The UK Government (London) January 2015. Access Date: 10 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418688/15-03-20_SCP_Stakeholder_Engagement_Summary.pdf.

¹⁵⁹⁰ Revised Terms of Reference for the Action Group on Cross Border Remittances," The UK Government (London) January 2015. Access Date: 10 March 2015.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/418688/15-03-20_SCP_Stakeholder_Engagement_Summary.pdf.

¹⁵⁹¹ Remittance Prices Worldwide, The World Bank (Washington) January 2015. Access Date: 17 February 2015. https://remittanceprices.worldbank.org/sites/default/files/rpw_report_january_2015.pdf

¹⁵⁹² New Initiative Accounted to Enable Diaspora Investment in India's Development, USAID Press Office (Washington) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 6 April 2015.

<http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jan-26-2015-new-initiative-announced-enable-diaspora-investment-indias>.

¹⁵⁹³ FACT SHEET: Treasury and Commerce Announce Regulatory Amendments to the Cuba Sanctions, U.S Department of the Treasury (Washington) 15 January 2015. Access Date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/j19740.aspx>.

In January 2015, Merchants Bank in partnership with US Congressman Keith Ellison announced, “that it would close all Somali-American [money transfer operator] accounts” after unsuccessful attempts to maintain these accounts and find new ways to improve risk mitigation.¹⁵⁹⁴

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to improve access to more affordable remittances. It took limited steps to enhance access to affordable remittances, however was unable to meet the 5% target. Thus, the US is awarded a score of 0.

Analysts: Jasjit Goraya and Mariel Seymour

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to take practical measures to enhance access to more affordable remittances.

Notably, the average remittance cost percentage could not be calculated because average remittance costs vary across EU members.

On 5 December 2014, “[European Union] member-states reached an agreement on the proposal for a revised Payment Services Directive (PSD) to a new Payment Services Directive (PSD2).”¹⁵⁹⁵ PSD2 has an increased focus on consumer protection, enhanced security, competition, and innovation. PSD2 also aims to improve the cost-transparency of remittances.¹⁵⁹⁶ Higher transparency on the market could lead to cheaper remittances abroad.¹⁵⁹⁷

On 4-5 March 2015, the EU co-financed the first African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks on “finding ways to leverage this powerful financial and development force by making remittance services more affordable and accessible to rural people [in Africa].”¹⁵⁹⁸

The EU has demonstrated action on reducing remittance costs and enhancing financial inclusion. Thus, it was awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Leslie Wood

¹⁵⁹⁴ Hanging By A Thread, Joint Agency Briefing Note 19 February 2015. Access Date: 17 April 2015. <http://adesoafrika.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/bn-hanging-by-thread-somalia-remittances-190215-embargo-en.pdf>

¹⁵⁹⁵ Payment Service Directive: Towards More Clarity? European Banking Federation 19 December 2014. Access Date: 17 April 2015. <http://enews.ebf-fbe.eu/2014/12/payment-service-directive-towards-more-clarity/>

¹⁵⁹⁶ Key Features of PSD2 and What They Mean for the Payments Industry, Out-law.com (London) 26 January 2015. Access Date: 27 February 2015. <http://www.out-law.com/en/articles/2015/january/key-features-of-psd2-and-what-they-mean-for-the-payments-industry/>.

¹⁵⁹⁷ Payment Services Directive and Interchange fees Regulation, EU Business 24 July 2013. Access Date: 5 April 2015. <http://www.eubusiness.com/topics/finance/payment-services-2/>.

¹⁵⁹⁸ First African Conference on Remittances and Postal Networks Addresses Cost of Sending Money, International Fund for Agricultural Development 2 March 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2015. <http://www.ifad.org/media/press/2015/16.htm>

15. Development: Tax Administration

“We will work with [developing countries] to build their tax administration.”

G20 Brisbane Summit Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil			+1
Canada		0	
China		0	
France	-1		
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy	-1		
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.15	

Background

The G20 launched its development agenda during 2010 Seoul Summit with the adoption of the Multi-Year Action Plan on Development (MYAP). The MYAP established nine pillars where G20 action was identified as necessary to resolve the most significant challenges facing developing countries with respect to inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth. The eighth pillar, domestic resources mobilization, stressed the importance of strengthening “tax regimes and fiscal policies in developing countries to provide a sustainable revenue base for inclusive growth and social equity, as well as to enhance the transparency and accountability of public finances.”¹⁵⁹⁹ The action plan also calls for international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank to support the development of more effective tax systems in developing countries.¹⁶⁰⁰

According to a report published by the OECD, IMF, UN and World Bank for the G20 Development Working Group (DWG), taxation provides governments with the necessary funds

¹⁵⁹⁹ Annex II: Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, The Seoul Summit Document (Seoul) 12 November 2010. Date of Access: 19 February 2014. <http://www.g20dwg.org/documents/pdf/view/323/>.

¹⁶⁰⁰ Annex II: Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, The Seoul Summit Document (Seoul) 12 November 2010. Date of Access: 19 February 2014. <http://www.g20dwg.org/documents/pdf/view/323/>.

needed to invest in development, relieve poverty and deliver public services.¹⁶⁰¹ It also allows developing countries to reduce their dependency on foreign aid. Moreover, according to the report, tax system design is closely linked to domestic and international investment decisions, including in terms of transparency and fairness. Thus, a strong tax administration is essential to strengthening domestic resource mobilization. Despite this, half the sub-Saharan African countries still mobilize less than 17% of their gross domestic product in tax revenues, which is well below the 20% minimum level considered by the UN as necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Therefore, the G20 needs to take greater action in assisting developing countries in building capacity with respect to their tax administrations.

Commitment Features

The commitment requires G20 member countries to assist developing countries in building capacity in the area of tax administration. The report to the DWG focused on supporting the development of more effective tax systems identified two main ways in which G20 members can better assist developing countries to strengthen their tax systems and support their revenue mobilization efforts: leading by example in addressing common issues and furthering common interests, and acting as shareholders or members of the international organizations most closely concerned with taxation and development.¹⁶⁰²

In order to fulfill these two mandates the report developed several recommendations for G20 leaders on capacity building:¹⁶⁰³

Common issues, common interests — leading by example and developing partnerships

6. Estimate and publish tax expenditures, and the cost of special provisions, in regular tax expenditure and budgets. G20 countries could lead and encourage a more rigorous assessment of the costs and benefits of such provisions.
7. Develop analytical frameworks, suitable to the varying needs and circumstances of different countries, to assess the costs and benefits of preferential tax treatments, including in particular tax incentives aimed at foreign direct investment, and provide guidelines for countries which use such incentives.
8. Disclose and consider reducing the scope of tax exemptions required by G20 countries from country recipients of aid-funded projects.
9. Undertake “spillover” analyses of proposed changes to tax law in G20 countries, for example in trade and international taxation — which could have effects on the fiscal circumstances of developing countries.

Acting as shareholders or members in international organizations

1. Encourage international organizations to more thoroughly assess and act upon linkages of tax and expenditure policies in their technical assistance to developing countries.

¹⁶⁰¹ Supporting the Development of More Effective Tax System, A Report to the G20 Development Working Group by the IMF, OECD, UN, and World Bank 2011. Date of Access: 19 February 2014.
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/110311.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰² Supporting the Development of More Effective Tax System, A Report to the G20 Development Working Group by the IMF, OECD, UN, and World Bank 2011. Date of Access: 19 February 2014.
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/110311.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰³ Supporting the Development of More Effective Tax System, A Report to the G20 Development Working Group by the IMF, OECD, UN, and World Bank 2011. Date of Access: 19 February 2014.
<http://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/110311.pdf>.

2. Encourage the IMF and World Bank, working with other international and regional organizations as appropriate, to further develop and make publicly available consistent and detailed revenue data sets for the developing countries.
3. Encourage the international organizations, including the Forum on Tax Administrations, to develop a tool kit of measures to counter tax evasion and avoidance, based on best practices and guidelines adapted to the needs of developing countries.
4. Promote the Multilateral Convention on Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.

Given the important role which international organizations play in enhancing tax capacity of developing countries, the implementation of this commitment will be assessed through monitoring national actions on a bilateral basis and actions through and in partnership with international institutions (OECD, IMF, UN, World Bank, among others). In order to receive full compliance, G20 members must take actions to assist developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or member of international organizations.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member does not assist developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests or as stakeholders or members of international organizations.
0	Member assists developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests OR as stakeholders or members of international organizations, but not both.
+1	Member assists developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns AND as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

Argentina has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

Argentina continues to publish data on taxes collected on a monthly basis.¹⁶⁰⁴

On 11 December 2015, Officials from the National Customs and Tax Administration (SUNAT) of Peru came to Argentina to participate in the internship that gave the Argentinian Federal Administration of Public Revenue. SUNAT agents and their Argentine counterparts discussed the conceptual models, and technological and application architecture that supports tax accounting.¹⁶⁰⁵

¹⁶⁰⁴ Panorama Fiscal, El Diario de la AFIP. 1 April 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.
<http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/panoramaFiscal/recaudacion/marzo2015.aspx>.

¹⁶⁰⁵ La AFIP brindó una pasantía sobre el Sistema de Cuentas Tributarias a su par de Perú, El Diario de la AFIP. 11 December 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.
<http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/internacionales/sistemaCuentasTributarias.aspx>.

On 23 February 2015, it was reported that the Federal Administration of Public Revenue of Argentina held a meeting with the ambassador of Azerbaijan to continue strengthening cooperation in tax and customs spheres.¹⁶⁰⁶

On 17 March 2015, a delegation of officials from the Argentinian Federal Administration of Public Revenue visited Morocco, where they conducted seminars and shares successful experiences in online submission of affidavits, electronic payment, registration system, current accounts and other tax-oriented issues such as electronic monitoring and control tax data.¹⁶⁰⁷

Argentina has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

According to the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes report delivered to G20 finance ministers, Argentina has been largely compliant with the international standard of transparency and exchange of information on request.¹⁶⁰⁸

On 11-14 December 2015, Argentina organized a workshop “Mega Data in Precise Agriculture,” attended by the representatives of Inter-American Centre of Tax Administrations, Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa) and researchers from the United States, Uruguay, etc. The purpose of the meeting was to exchange techniques on data analysis in agriculture. The initiative was supported by the participants, and the next meeting is to take place in August in Colombia.¹⁶⁰⁹

On 22-26 March 2015, the Argentinian Federal Administration of Public Revenue organized a course “The tax administration against global taxpayer” in close collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. This course provided a solid introduction to the technical aspects of international taxation, as well as the theoretical approach, based on the most updated information.¹⁶¹⁰

Argentina has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: 0

Australia has partially complied with the commitment on assisting developing countries to build their tax administration capacity.

Australia has taken actions to assist developing countries in capacity building through national actions.

¹⁶⁰⁶ Argentina y Azerbaiyán continúan reforzando sus lazos aduaneros y tributarios, El Diario de la AFIP. 23 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/internacionales/lazosAduaneros.aspx>.

¹⁶⁰⁷ La AFIP brinda asistencia técnica a la DGI de Marruecos, El Diario de la AFIP. 17 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/internacionales/dgiMarruecos.aspx>.

¹⁶⁰⁸ Tax Transparency 2014: Report on Progress, Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/GFannualreport2014.pdf>.

¹⁶⁰⁹ El CIAT estuvo presente en taller sobre agricultura de precisión en Argentina, CIAT Blog. 10 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.ciatnews.cgjar.org/es/2015/01/10/el-ciat-estuvo-presente-en-taller-sobre-agricultura-de-precision-en-argentina/>.

¹⁶¹⁰ Echegaray presentó el curso internacional “La administración tributaria frente el contribuyente global”, El Diario de la AFIP. 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.dialogofiscal.gob.ar/gestion/bariloche.aspx>.

Since 2009, Australia has been providing broad governance assistance to Nauru, aimed at helping the country's government to improve fiscal management, strengthen public financial management, improve government communications and enhance data collection. Australia is funding the recruitment and salaries of three deputy Secretaries in the Department of Finance, responsible for revenue collection including customs revenue, debt management, public expenditure policy, as well as broad fiscal management.¹⁶¹¹

No Australian actions to assist developing countries in tax administration capacity building within the international institutions have been registered.

During the compliance period Australia has taken steps aimed at assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity through national actions but not as a member of international organization. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

Brazil has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

On 26 November 2014, the Ministry of Justice of Brazil participated in the Launch Workshop Asset Recovery Network for West Africa. Brazil's participation in the forum aims to expand the partnership of cooperation in asset recovery and tax evasions fighting with the African continent. The network is an informal platform to assist in locating, identifying, freezing and confiscation of assets in the West African region. Brazil also participates in other forums and networks on the subject, such as the Asset Recovery Network of Financial Action Task Force of South America (RRAG) and the Asset Recovery Network (StAR Interpol).¹⁶¹²

Brazil has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

On 22 December, the Administrative Council for Economic Defence (CADE) of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Integrity Vice Presidency of the World Bank Group signed a memorandum of understanding. Under the memorandum the parties create transparent information exchange system by providing each other with relevant for financial frauds detection and prevention data which can facilitate elimination of tax evasions.¹⁶¹³

¹⁶¹¹ Governance assistance in Nauru, Australian Government. Date of Access 14 May 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/geo/nauru/development-assistance/Pages/governance-assistance-nauru.aspx>.

¹⁶¹² Ministério da Justiça Busca Intensificar Cooperação Jurídica com Gana e Paraguai, Brazilian Ministério da Justiça 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 4 April 2015. <http://www.justica.gov.br/noticias/ministerio-da-justica-busca-intensificar-cooperacao-juridica-com-gana-e-paraguai>

¹⁶¹³ The Administrative Council for Economic Defence 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 4 April 2015. [http://www.cade.gov.br/upload/MoU%20CADE%20-%20INT%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.cade.gov.br/upload/MoU%20CADE%20-%20INT%20(English).pdf)

On 6 January 2015, the CADE and the Inter-American Development Bank signed an agreement for cooperation and information sharing. It involves information exchange in spheres of such financial frauds as tax evasions, money laundering and corruption.¹⁶¹⁴

As of March 2015, Brazil is admitted to be largely compliant with the international standard of transparency and exchange of information in both phase 1 and phase 2.¹⁶¹⁵

Brazil has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with the commitment on tax administration.

The Canada Revenue Agency is committed to take advantage of emerging opportunities and to address the realities of the current global environment for reinforcing strategic partnerships with key countries and organizations and leveraging new networks of influence with developing and emerging economies.¹⁶¹⁶

Canada participates in the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters to tackle tax evasion and avoidance especially in developing countries.¹⁶¹⁷

Canada has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns, but not as stakeholders or members of international organizations during the compliance period. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

China: 0

China has partially complied with the commitment on tax administration.

China has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns.

On 26 March 2015, Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference in China. During the visit China and Indonesia agreed to improve taxation cooperation, combat international tax evasion, help developing countries and low-income countries increase capabilities related taxation, develop favourable taxation environment for investment, economic cooperation and trade between the two countries. China and Indonesia signed the Protocol to and

¹⁶¹⁴ The Administrative Council for Economic Defence of Brazil 6 January 2015. Date of Access: 4 April 2015. <http://www.cade.gov.br/upload/Conv%C3%AAnio%20CADE-BID.pdf>

¹⁶¹⁵ Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, Phase 1 and Phase 2 Reviews, OECD. Date of Access: 4 April 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/GFratings.pdf>

¹⁶¹⁶ Offshoring Canadian Taxes. Date of Access: 4 April 2015. <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/gncy/cmplnc/crprttxdnc/menu-eng.html>

¹⁶¹⁷ Jurisdictions Participating in the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters. Status –8 April 2015. Date of Access: 10 April 2015. http://www.oecd.org/tax/exchange-of-tax-information/Status_of_convention.pdf

Memorandum of Understanding on the Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income.¹⁶¹⁸

No facts of China's assistance to developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations have been registered during the compliance period. China has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns, but they do not assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: -1

France has not complied with the commitment on tax administration.

France is generally paying little attention to specific solutions that will benefit developing countries and has expressed no intention to undertake impact assessments of its international tax policies or its tax treaties to analyze the spillover effects on developing countries.

France has not assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns or as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

Germany has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

On 16, 17 February 2015, participants in the Executive Master's in Taxation Programme attended an expert meeting with the Bavarian Tax Administration at the Tax Office in Munich.¹⁶¹⁹ Among the topics under discussion were base erosion and profit shifting, taxation on e-commerce, standards for the automatic exchange of information and other relevant subjects. The main objective was to provide practical exchange of experiences in the field of taxation. The program was launched on 17 October 2014 by Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. The participants are the first cohort of 27 employees of revenue authorities and ministries of finance from across sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁶²⁰ The program was developed jointly by Good Financial Governance in Africa Programme¹⁶²¹ established

¹⁶¹⁸ Joint Statement on Strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the People's Republic of China and The Republic of Indonesia, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Norway 26 March 2015. Date of Access: 25 April 2015.

http://wza.fmprc.gov.cn/yxsm/index.php?m=proxy&a=show&q_url=http%3A%2F%2Fno.china-embassy.org%2Feng%2F.%2Fzyxw%2Ft1249201.htm

¹⁶¹⁹ News, Executive Master's In Taxation 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.emtaxation.org/News.aspx>

¹⁶²⁰ Current Cohort, Executive Master's In Taxation 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.<http://www.emtaxation.org/TheProgramme/CurrentCohort.aspx>

¹⁶²¹ Transparente Und Verantwortungsvolle Nutzung Öffentlicher Finanzen, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/17668.html>

by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), which supports the German government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development,¹⁶²² the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and the Berlin School of Economics and Law. It is designed to respond to partner needs of African tax officials, policy makers and tax practitioners to help them expand their expertise in tax policy and tax administration.¹⁶²³

Germany has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

In February 2015, a draft field guide of the Tax Administration Diagnostic Assessment Tool (TADAT) was issued.¹⁶²⁴ It contains a structured methodology of this new initiative of the International Monetary Fund. The purpose of the organization is to provide measures to strengthen tax administration effectiveness and ensure fair, efficient, and transparent tax collection through assessing relative strengths and weaknesses of tax administrations. Germany actively participates in the affairs of organization. German representatives hold places in most of its organs. Marion Fleuth-Leferink is a member of TADAT's steering committee, which also means that Germany is among the contributors to TADAT's sub-account.¹⁶²⁵ Apart from that, Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany is also one the TADAT international partners.¹⁶²⁶ TADAT carries out its assessment not only in advanced countries, but all over the world. Developing countries are widely engaged into the activities of the organization. ATAF is a member of the Technical Advisory Group, whose aim is to support the technical development and maintenance of the diagnostic tool. Maimbo Nyanga, the Director for Research and Planning of the Zambian Revenue Authority, speaking at the kick-off event, explained that the TADAT assessment was particularly useful for gaining a better understanding of reform needs and priorities.¹⁶²⁷ All current pilot missions of the organization take place in developing countries.¹⁶²⁸

Germany has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

India has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

¹⁶²² Profil, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/profile.html>

¹⁶²³ New International Degree To Strengthen Tax Administrations In Africa, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/27232.html>

¹⁶²⁴ Draft Field Guide, TADAT February 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

http://www.tadat.org/files/TADAT_FieldGuide_V5.pdf

¹⁶²⁵ Steering Committee, TADAT. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://tadat.org/overview/SteeringCommittee%20.html>

¹⁶²⁶ TADAT Partners, TADAT. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://tadat.org/overview/tadat_partner.html

¹⁶²⁷ New Tool to Improve Tax Administration, IMF 5 March 2014. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/survey/so/2014/NEW030314A.htm>

¹⁶²⁸ New, Pilot Missions, TADAT. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://tadat.org/news_events/PilotMissions.html

On 23-24 December 2014, the standing committee of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) approved the Report on Avoidance and Double Taxation and Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.¹⁶²⁹ All the member countries are referred to developing economies according to the definition given by the World Bank.¹⁶³⁰ The collaboration in the sphere of taxes can thus be seen as the assistance provided by India to developing countries.

India has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

As of 4 March 2015, India participates in the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters.¹⁶³¹

On 9 February 2015, in his report to G20 finance ministers the Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development stated that as of February 2015, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes finished the second phase of evaluating jurisdictions' compliance with the international standard of transparency and exchange of information on request. India has received the rating of "compliant." Moreover, the report notices that India took the obligation to put into effect the new standard for the automatic exchange of information in 2018. As the member of the Global Forum, India is committed to provide technical assistance to developing countries to implement the new standard.¹⁶³²

India has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

Indonesia has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

On 12 February 2015, the Indonesian Ministry of Finance informed that at the meeting of the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors that had taken place in Istanbul on 9-10 February, the country had encouraged the implementation of the agreement to address base erosion and profit

¹⁶²⁹ Note by the Secretariat of Economic and Financial Cooperation, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.saaarc-sec.org/uploads/document/Note%20on%20Eco%20and%20Fin%20Coop%20-%2022%20January%202015_20150122045846.doc.

¹⁶³⁰ Country and Lending Groups, the World Bank. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>.

¹⁶³¹ Jurisdiction Participating in the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters Status - 4 March 2015, OECD 4 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.oecd.org/tax/exchange-of-tax-information/Status_of_convention.pdf.

¹⁶³² OECD Secretary-General Report to G20 Finance Ministers, OECD 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/2015-Feb-GF-report-G20.pdf>.

shifting. Additionally, Indonesia expected the international taxation cooperation agenda in the form of taxation information exchange among countries to be realized immediately.¹⁶³³

However, no evidence of Indonesia assisting developing countries in capacity building through addressing common issues and common interests was found during the compliance period.

Indonesia has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Italy: -1

Italy has failed to comply with the commitment on assisting developing countries to build their tax administration capacity.

No evidence of Italy's national actions to assist developing countries in tax administration capacity building or Italy's involvement in international institutions' efforts to assist developing countries in tax administration capacity building was registered.

During the compliance period Italy has failed to take steps aimed at assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity through national actions and as a member of international organization. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with the commitment on tax administration.

Japan has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

On 7- 9 April 2015, Japanese Ministry of Finance and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) co-hosted the Sixth IMF-Japan High-Level Tax Conference for Asian Countries in Tokyo. The workshop will be financed by the Japan Administered Account for Selected IMF Activities. This conference aimed to build an effective tax system and tax administration in developing countries by exchanging their own experience.¹⁶³⁴

Japan has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations, but has not assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

¹⁶³³ Indonesia Encourages Implementation of MGM Agreement in G20, Ministry of Finance of Indonesia 12 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/Berita/indonesia-encourages-implementation-mgm-agreement-g20>.

¹⁶³⁴ The Sixth IMF-Japan High-Level Tax Conference for Asian Countries, "Emerging Tax Issues in Asia", Tokyo, Japan, April 7-9. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.imf.org/external/np/seminars/eng/2015/asiatax/>

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity.

From 23 to 29 November 2014, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) conducted a Capacity Development of Tax Administration program for the participants from Myanmar. The program was aimed at assisting Myanmar officials in developing “long-term and short-term plans for building taxation capacity in line with the country’s economic development plan.”¹⁶³⁵

On 6 May 2015, KOICA announced a program to develop tax integrated system for 15 participants from Ecuador as part of the Korean government’s grant aid and technical cooperation in 2015. The 16-day program aims to share Korea’s experiences and strategies in tax administration, providing response to current challenges in tax administration sphere, and to assist Ecuador in building master plan for the generation of a system for integrated control of human resources processes.¹⁶³⁶

No facts of Korea’s assistance to developing countries in capacity building as members of international organizations have been registered.

During the compliance period Korea has taken steps aimed at assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity through national actions, while failing to provide assistance through multilateral channels. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on assisting developing countries to build their tax administration capacity.

On 9-13 December 2014, a seminar on exchange of information for tax purposes was held in the Multilateral Tax Centre in Mexico.¹⁶³⁷ The Mexican Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit co-sponsored the event. The seminar was aimed to assist the ministries of finance and the tax administrations of Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of the appropriate legal and administrative framework for the effective implementation of information exchange. The seminar was attended by the representatives of tax authorities of developing countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala and Jamaica. The expert panel was composed of representatives from the Interamerican Centre of Tax Administrators (CIAT), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Global Forum on Transparency and Information Exchange.¹⁶³⁸

¹⁶³⁵ Capacity Development of Tax Administration (Myanmar), Korea International Cooperation Agency 21 November 2014. Date of assess: 16 June 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1318746_3545.html.

¹⁶³⁶ Tax Integrated System Development (Ecuador), Korea International Cooperation Agency 6 May 2015. Date of assess: 25 May 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1319712_3545.html.

¹⁶³⁷ The LAC Fiscal Initiative. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-global/the-lac-fiscal-initiative.htm>.

¹⁶³⁸ The CIAT, OECD, SAT and SHCP of Mexico, AEAT of Spain and Guardia di Finanza of Italy sponsored an activity on information exchange for tax purposes. Date of assess: 23 February 2015.

<http://www.ciat.org/index.php/en/news/archived-news/news/3071-el-ciat-junto-con-la-ocde-el-foro-global-sobre-transparencia-e-intercambio-de-informacion-sat-de-mexico-la-secretaria-de-hacienda-y-credito-publico-de-mexico-shcp-aeat-de-espana-y-la-guardia-di-finanza-de-italia-llevaron-a-cabo-una-actividad-sobre-.html>.

On 13 March 2015, during President of Guatemala Otto Pérez Molina's visit to Mexico, the Agreement on Double Taxation and Tax Evasion Preventing was signed aimed at boosting bilateral trade and investment and information sharing between countries.¹⁶³⁹

During the compliance period Mexico has taken steps aimed at assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity through national actions and as a member of international organization (the OECD). Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: 0

Russia has partially complied with the commitment to assist developing countries in building their tax administration capacity.

Russia is a member of and donor to the Public Expenditure Management Peer-Assisted Learning (PEMPAL) network, which is "a multilateral effort to develop capacity and share reform experiences among countries in Central Asia and Central and Eastern Europe." PEMPAL supports "the enhancement of domestic capacity in public expenditure and financial management, to play a catalytic role in scaling up aid, and to strengthen institutions and policies."¹⁶⁴⁰ Through a trust fund managed by the World Bank, Russia allocated USD30 million to support PEMPAL in 2010-2014, including USD4 million in 2014.¹⁶⁴¹

Russia has taken actions to assist developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders of international organizations but no facts of assistance through national actions have been registered. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

Saudi Arabia: -1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with the commitment on assisting developing countries to build their tax administration capacity.

No evidence of Saudi Arabia's national actions to assist developing countries in tax administration capacity building or involvement into international institutions' efforts to assist developing countries in tax administration capacity building was registered.

During the compliance period Saudi Arabia has failed to take steps aimed at assisting developing countries in building their tax administration capacity through national actions and as a member of international organization. Thus, it has been awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

¹⁶³⁹ Declaración Conjunta con motivo de la Visita Oficial a México del Presidente de Guatemala, Otto Pérez Molina. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/declaracion-conjunta-con-motivo-de-la-visita-oficial-a-mexico-del-presidente-de-guatemala-otto-perez-molina/>; México y Guatemala buscan prevenir la evasión fiscal entre ambos países. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/2015/03/13/mexico-y-guatemala-firman-acuerdo-para-prevenir-la-evasion-fiscal-entre-ambas-naciones-150.html>.

¹⁶⁴⁰ About PEMPAL, PEMPAL. <http://www.pempal.org/about/about-pempal/>.

¹⁶⁴¹ Government Directive No 222-r of 26 February 2010, Russian Government 2 March 2010. <http://archive.government.ru/gov/results/9565/>.

South Africa: –1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment on tax administration.

No South Africa's actions on building developing countries' tax administration capacity have been registered. Thus, it has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

Turkey has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

On 9-10 February 2015, Turkey hosted the meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Istanbul, where the Global Forum progress report was delivered. The report provides information on the progress in incorporating beneficial ownership into the Global Forum's standards and on ongoing preparations for monitoring the implementation of the new standard on automatic exchange of information, with a particular focus on helping developing countries build capacities to benefit from the international tax agenda.¹⁶⁴²

On 6-8 May 2015, Turkey hosted the G20 International Tax Symposium organized by the Ministry of Finance. The main aim of the event was to discuss developments in international taxation related to the key items of the G20 tax agenda and to “ensure that developing and low-income countries benefit from the G20's work on tax and other related matters.”¹⁶⁴³

Turkey, however, failed to assist developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

Turkey has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

The UK has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests.

¹⁶⁴² OECD Secretary-General Report to G20 Finance Ministers Istanbul, Turkey February 2015. Part II, OECD 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/transparency/2015-Feb-GF-report-G20.pdf>.

¹⁶⁴³ G-20 International Tax Symposium, G20 Turkey 2015 12 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <https://g20.org/g-20-international-tax-symposium/>.

In December 2014, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) updated its Operational Plan for 2011-2016. The plan provides for actions to help scale up tax revenue collection in seven developing countries by 2016.¹⁶⁴⁴

DFID is currently implementing a project in Afghanistan worth GBP26 million aimed at increasing its domestic tax revenues, including through capacity building.¹⁶⁴⁵ A similar project worth about GBP7 million will be implemented by 30 June 2016 in Bangladesh.¹⁶⁴⁶

DFID is also implementing a project aimed at generating “knowledge that will help developing (particularly low income and fragile) countries to i) mobilise domestic resources efficiently, effectively and equitably; and ii) develop tax systems that promote pro-poor economic growth and good governance.”

The United Kingdom has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

DFID is currently engaged in tax capacity building in 22 countries and developing tax capacity building work in a further four countries. These actions include indirect support through multilateral organisations. The DFID-funded tax capacity building unit has provided direct peer-to-peer support in Tanzania, Ghana, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Malawi and Ukraine. Technical assistance to help combat tax avoidance and enhance revenue collection has been provided for Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zambia, Rwanda, South Africa and Liberia through the UK program of funding to the Global Forum, the International Finance Corporation and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

DFID currently funds the tax administration diagnostic tool development projects worth GBP1.785 million in partnership with the International Monetary Fund to help tax authorities in developing countries achieve more effective systems to reduce tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax base erosion.¹⁶⁴⁷

From 10 December 2014 to 31 March 2015, DFID provided GBP500,000 to the African Tax Administration Forum in order to improve tax policy and administration in Africa and build fiscal sustainability.¹⁶⁴⁸

The United Kingdom has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholders or members of international organizations. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

¹⁶⁴⁴ Operational Plan 2011-2016. Governance, Open Societies and Anti-Corruption Department, UK Government 18 December 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389494/GOSAC_Operational_Plan.pdf.

¹⁶⁴⁵ Tax Administration Project, Development Tracker 25 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202311/>.

¹⁶⁴⁶ Tax Administration - Compliance and Taxpayer Services (TACTS), Development Tracker 18 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-113287/>.

¹⁶⁴⁷ Tax administration diagnostic tool development (TADAT), Development Tracker 27 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204114/>.

¹⁶⁴⁸ support to the African Tax Administration Forum, Development Tracker 12 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204677>.

United States: 0

The United States has partially complied with the commitment on tax administration.

On 29 January 2015, in its submission on strengthening international tax cooperation, the US assured the United Nations in its strong support of tax collection and management capacity-building assistance for developing countries. According to this document, during the period under review, the US has continued to provide assistance on tax policy and legislation and to support activities increasing the efficiency of tax regimes in Georgia, Egypt and El Salvador.¹⁶⁴⁹

The Tax Reform Project (TRP), funded by the US Agency for International Development, has organized several events on taxation in developing countries.¹⁶⁵⁰ On 11 March 2015, TRP together with the Civil Engagement in Local Governance project held a conference on local taxes and taxation reform in Yerevan, Armenia. TRP experts shed light on international practice of sub-national and property taxation for a number of professionals including top officials from central and local governments.¹⁶⁵¹

However, no actions of the US as a stakeholder or a member of international organizations have been registered.

The United States has taken actions to assist developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common interests but failed to do so as a stakeholder or a member of international organizations. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on building tax administration capacity in developing countries.

The EU has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns.

On 27 November 2014, the European Commission approved 12 projects, for a total amount of USD133 million, under its new PanAfrican program, which will foster Africa's integration process and support public finance management in the region among the other tasks.¹⁶⁵²

The EU has assisted developing countries in capacity building as stakeholders or members of international organizations.

On 10 February 2015, the European Union and its members stated the position on options for further strengthening the work on international tax cooperation. They acknowledged the need to further promote international cooperation in tax matters and decided to continue to engage on this issue. The EU confirmed supporting developing countries in designing efficient and cooperative tax systems as a priority of its development policy along with the commitment to participate actively in

¹⁶⁴⁹ U.S. Submission on Strengthening International Tax Cooperation, U.S. Mission to the United Nations 29 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ICTM2015_USA.pdf.

¹⁶⁵⁰ USAID a U.S. government agency focused at global poverty eradication

¹⁶⁵¹ "Local Taxes : Current Issues and Policy Perspectives " Conference Took Place in Yerevan, Tax Reform Project 11 March 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://trp.am/en/events/49-presentations/193-ltconf>.

¹⁶⁵² EU launches the first projects of the PanAfrican programme, European Commission 27 November 2014. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-14-2202_en.htm

the work of international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), including the OECD informal taskforce on tax and development, and to engage in extensive dialogue with developing countries through instruments such as the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information and the Global Forum on development.¹⁶⁵³

In preparation of the international conference on development finance, taking place in Addis Ababa 13-16 July, the European Parliament is working on “Financing for Development” report which has to be completed by 20 April 2015.¹⁶⁵⁴ According to this document, the European Parliament is going to encourage the commission to strengthen the areas of tax administration, financial governance and public financial management through enhanced cooperation and capacity building in developing countries.¹⁶⁵⁵

The European Union has assisted developing countries in capacity building through national actions that address common issues and common concerns and as stakeholder or member of international organizations. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Mark Rakhmangulov

¹⁶⁵³ European Union and its members states position on options for further strengthening the work and operational capacity of the committee of experts on international tax cooperation, with an emphasis on better integrating its work into the Programme of work of the council following its reform and effectively contributing to the financing for development process and to the post- 2015 development agenda, United Nations 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ICTM2015_EuropeanUnion.pdf

¹⁶⁵⁴ Committee meeting 20 April: development finance, global health, Structured Dialogue, European Parliament 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/deve/home.html>

¹⁶⁵⁵ Draft Report on Financing for Development, European Parliament 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//NONSGML+COMPARL+PE-549.307+02+DOC+PDF+V0//EN&language=EN>

16. Development: Aid for Trade

“We will continue to provide aid-for-trade to developing countries in need of assistance.”

G20 Brisbane Summit Leader's Communiqué

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico		0	
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average		+0.10	

Background

The G20 leaders first addressed issues of international trade at their inaugural meeting in Washington in 2008. At the 2010 Seoul Summit, assistance to developing countries in improving their access and availability to trade was included as one of the nine pillars of the G20 Multi-Year Action Plan on development aimed to resolve the most significant bottlenecks hindering inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth in those countries. The leaders committed to improve the access and availability to trade with advanced economies and between developing and low-income countries.¹⁶⁵⁶

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to provide assistance to developing countries in terms of improving their capacities for trade.

¹⁶⁵⁶ Multi-Year Action Plan on Development, G20 Information Centre 12 November 2010. Date of access 20 January 2015. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul-development.html>.

According to the methodology set out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development¹⁶⁵⁷ and the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade 2006 recommendations¹⁶⁵⁸ aid for trade comprises the following categories:

- **technical assistance for trade policy and regulations** (e.g. helping countries to develop trade strategies, negotiate trade agreements, and implement their outcomes);
- **trade-related infrastructure** (e.g. building roads, ports, and telecommunications networks to connect domestic markets to the global economy);
- **productive capacity building**, including trade development (e.g. supporting the private sector to exploit their comparative advantages and diversify their exports);
- **trade-related adjustment** (e.g. helping developing countries with the costs associated with trade liberalization, such as tariff reductions, preference erosion, or declining terms of trade);
- **other trade-related needs**, if the action is identified as a trade-related development priority in partner countries’ national development strategy.

To register full compliance with this commitment, a G20 member needs to provide assistance to a developing country taking actions in at least three of the above-mentioned categories.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member fails to provide aid for trade to developing countries.
0	Member takes actions in one or two of the above-mentioned categories.
+1	Member takes actions in three or more of the above-mentioned categories.

Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

Argentina has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

On 10 February 2015, Eduardo Antonio Zuani, Argentina’s State Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, held discussions with Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Chrestos, Ethiopia’s State Minister for Foreign Affairs. Berhane expressed Ethiopia’s readiness to learn from Argentina’s experience in agricultural sphere and pointed out that this was the main catalyst in the country’s Growth and Transformation Plan. Following the talks, a general technical cooperation agreement was signed, focusing on the sharing of technical knowledge and experience, the exchange and provision of technical data and information, as well as best practices. As a result, Argentina has provided aid for trade to Ethiopia in two categories, specified by the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade. On the one hand, that might be regarded as productive capacity building, for Ethiopia has comparative advantages in agriculture and Argentina provides expertise on how to exploit them. On

¹⁶⁵⁷ Aid-for-trade statistical queries, OECD. Date of access 20 January 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/trade/aft/aid-for-tradestatisticalqueries.htm>.

¹⁶⁵⁸ General Council supports suspension of trade talks; Task Force submits “Aid for Trade” recommendations, WTO. Date of access 20 January 2015. http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news06_e/gc_27july06_e.htm.

the other hand, that might be included into “other trade-related needs” category, as agriculture is included into the national development strategy of Ethiopia.¹⁶⁵⁹

On 16 February 2015, Eduardo Zuain, Argentina’s Deputy Foreign Minister, was received in Senegal by Mankeur Ndiaye, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, to discuss, inter alia, the progress in the implementation of joint projects in the areas of livestock, agriculture and coastal security.¹⁶⁶⁰ This action correlates with the “productive capacity building” category, as Argentina helped Senegal to exploit its comparative advantage in agriculture.

From 18 to 21 of March, the Argentinian delegation comprising officials from the Embassy of Argentina in South Africa, Argentinian Ministry of Agriculture and the Argentinian National Institute of Agriculture Technology visited Zambia to enhance cooperation in agriculture. The delegation provided technical assistance linked to conservation agriculture, precision farming and no-till planting and farming techniques, which might dramatically increase agricultural production and exports in Zambia.¹⁶⁶¹ Therefore, this step might be considered productive capacity building.

During the compliance period, Argentina has acted to provide aid for trade to developing countries in two categories specified by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

Australia has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

According to Australia’s Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade official information Australia’s aid for trade expenditure in 2014-15 was estimated at around \$742 million (14.7% of Australia’s total official development assistance). 45% of it is directed towards global or cross-regional initiatives, projects in East Asia draw 22% of Australia’s aid for trade expenditure, and the projects in the Pacific including Papua New Guinea amount to 23%. Australia’s aid for trade is distributed across three main types of activities: building economic infrastructure including transport and storage (53% of aid for trade expenditure), building productive capacity including in agriculture (41%), and trade policy and regulation (6%).¹⁶⁶²

Australia participates in a number of multilateral initiatives aligned with the aid for trade goals, such as the Global Trust Fund, assisting developing countries in increasing the effectiveness of their engagement in multilateral trade negotiations and helping them implement their commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Enhanced Integrated Framework assisting the least-developed countries to implement capacity-building activities and integrate trade into their national policies, International Trade Centre’s Women and Trade Programme, aimed at economic empowerment of

¹⁶⁵⁹ Ethiopia: Govt and Argentina Sign a Technical Cooperation Agreement, AllAfrica. 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201502111377.html>.

¹⁶⁶⁰ El Vicecanciller argentino y delegación finalizaron su misión en África con la visita a Senegal, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto de Argentina. 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.mrecic.gov.ar/el-vicecanciller-argentino-y-delegacion-finalizaron-su-mision-en-africa-con-la-visita-senegal>.

¹⁶⁶¹ Argentine Delegation Visits Zambia to Enhance Cooperation in Agriculture, High Commission of the Republic of Zambia. 17 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.zambiapretoria.net/argentine-delegation-visits-zambia-to-enhance-cooperation-in-agriculture/>.

¹⁶⁶² Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

women in the Pacific Region, and the World Intellectual Property Organization, helping developing countries strengthen their intellectual property systems.¹⁶⁶³ These initiatives fall into the “productive capacity building,” “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations,” and “other trade-related needs” categories defined by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade.

Australia is also engaged in the number of regional aid for trade initiatives, mainly in the Asia Pacific, including:

- Pacific Horticulture and Agricultural Market Access program, aimed at assisting Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji in increasing their agriculture and horticulture exports, through improving their capacity to meet quarantine, sanitary, phyto-sanitary and other market access requirements of their trading partners. The project is to be active until 2017.¹⁶⁶⁴ These activities cover the “productive capacity building,” and “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” categories.
- Greater Mekong Sub-region Trade and Transport Facilitation, helping countries of the region to enhance border procedures, and reduce the time required to process and clear goods through customs. The project is to be finalized in 2016.¹⁶⁶⁵ These activities fall into “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” category.
- Phase II of the ASEAN Australia Development Cooperation Program, which is a long-term, 11 year program designed to help ASEAN countries establish a regional Economic Community by 2015. The program addresses investment, trade in services and consumer protection issues in the region from 2008 to 2019.¹⁶⁶⁶ These activities cover “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations,” and “trade-related adjustment” categories.
- ASEAN Australia New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (AANZFTA) Economic Cooperation Support Program. In the framework of this 5 year program, active from 2010 to 2015 Australia supports capacity building in the ASEAN countries to access the benefits of the AANZFTA.¹⁶⁶⁷ These activities cover “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” category.
- Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations (PACER) Plus Support, assisting Forum Island Countries in their participation in PACER Plus negotiations. Active until 2016.¹⁶⁶⁸ These activities cover “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” category.

Australia has also provided aid for trade on a bilateral basis. There are currently four bilateral projects underway, including one, which has been started in 2015:

¹⁶⁶³ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁶⁴ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁶⁵ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁶⁶ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁶⁷ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁶⁸ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.
<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

- Provincial Road Management Facility), helping the Philippines to increase economic growth by improving public access to road infrastructure and basic services. The program will be finalized in 2015.¹⁶⁶⁹ These activities cover “trade-related infrastructure” category.
- Strengthening the Public Private Partnership Program, assisting the Philippine government in fast-tracking the use of Public Private Partnerships to help meet the country’s infrastructure needs. Active until 2016.¹⁶⁷⁰ These activities cover “trade-related infrastructure” category.
- Solomon Islands Biosecurity Development Program, strengthening Solomon Islands’ agriculture and quarantine services, and improving the country’s market access and trade opportunities. Active until 2016.¹⁶⁷¹ These activities cover “productive capacity building,” and “trade-related adjustment” categories.
- Investment Climate and Competitiveness Program. Launched in 2015, this program is aimed at ensuring enabling environment for private sector growth in Burma by supporting legal and regulatory reforms, assisting in trade facilitation and small to medium-sized enterprise skills development. It is to be finalized by 2019.¹⁶⁷² These activities cover “trade-related adjustment” category.

During the compliance period Australia has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in all five categories specified by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Brazil: 0

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

Brazil has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

On 21 November 2014, under the Institutional Support Project to the Togolese Institute of Agricultural Research (ITRA), four Togolese technicians and one producer participated in a two-week course on agro-processing cassava organized by Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária (Embrapa) which is a subdivision of Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento. The project aims to support the modernization of agriculture policy in Togo and focuses on training ITRA experts in cassava production and processing. As a result, Togolese producers of cassava will obtain more competitive advantages in international trade.¹⁶⁷³ The action can be identified as a trade-related development priority in partner countries’ national development strategy.

On 26 November 2014, Embrapa began to implement the Regional Project to Strengthen the Cotton Sector in the Basins of the Lower Shire and Zambezi — Malawi and Mozambique. Its aim to

¹⁶⁶⁹ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁷⁰ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁷¹ Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁷² Overview of aid for trade, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015.

<http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/aid-for-trade/Pages/aid-for-trade.aspx>.

¹⁶⁷³ Curso Sobre Processamento Agroindustrial de Mandioca para Togoenses, Agência Brasileira de Cooperação 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 6 April 2015. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarnoticia/574>

increase the institutional capacity and national human resources (researchers, extension agents and farmers of Malawi and Mozambique) in the use and dissemination of cotton production technologies on small farms in those countries.¹⁶⁷⁴ As stated in the Technical Assistance Program for Africa, cotton is pivotal in the exports and gross domestic product of countries such as Malawi.¹⁶⁷⁵ On 2 March 2015, Agência Brasileira de Cooperação and Embrapa visited northern Mozambique to study cotton sector of the country.¹⁶⁷⁶ The action refers to productive capacity building.

During the compliance period Brazil has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in two categories specified by the World Trade Organization's Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

On 1 December 2014, Canada signed foreign investment promotion and protection agreements (FIPAs) with three sub-Saharan African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Senegal. FIPAs improve the business climate by increasing investment and trade will contribute to sustainable economic growth in those countries and to achieving the objectives of the economic strategy for La Francophonie.¹⁶⁷⁷ This project falls into the "trade-related infrastructure" and "trade-related adjustment" categories defined by the World Trade Organization's Task Force on Aid for Trade.

On 28 April 2015, Ed Fast, Canadian Minister of International Trade met with Adrian Cristobal Jr., the Philippines' Undersecretary for Industry and Development and Trade to open new markets and create opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises.^{1678,1679} This project falls into the "productive capacity building" category defined by the Task Force on Aid for Trade.

On 20 April 2015 Canada and Burkina Faso signed a foreign investment promotion and protection agreement to set out clear rules governing investment relations, including in the areas of dispute resolution and protection against discriminatory and arbitrary practices, giving businesses greater confidence to invest.¹⁶⁸⁰ This project falls into the "trade-related adjustment" category.

On 26 January 2015, Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, announced different initiatives and free trade agreement to support economic and governance reform, and promote sustainable

¹⁶⁷⁴ Assinatura do Projeto Regional de Fortalecimento do Setor Algodoeiro nas Bacias do Baixo Shire e Zambeze – Malawi e Moçambique, Agência Brasileira de Cooperação 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 6 April 2015.

<http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarnoticia/575>

¹⁶⁷⁵ Background, Tap for Cotton. Date of Access: 6 April 2015. <http://www.cottontapafrika.org/background.html>

¹⁶⁷⁶ ABC e Embrapa Realizam Visita Técnica no Norte de Moçambique no Setor Algodoeiro, Agência Brasileira de Cooperação 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 6 April 2015. <http://www.abc.gov.br/imprensa/mostrarnoticia/594>

¹⁶⁷⁷ Harper Government Announces New Investment Agreements in Sub-Saharan Africa. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/comm/news-communiques/2014/12/01b.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁶⁷⁸ Minister Fast Talks Trade with Philippine Undersecretary. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/comm/news-communiques/2015/04/28b.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁶⁷⁹ Joint Statement by International Trade Ministers of Philippines and Canada. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/comm/news-communiques/2015/03/20a.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁶⁸⁰ Canada Signs Investment Agreement with Burkina Faso. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://www.international.gc.ca/media/comm/news-communiques/2015/04/20a.aspx?lang=eng>

economic growth for Ukrainian small and medium-sized businesses in the dairy and grain sectors.¹⁶⁸¹ This project falls into the “other trade-related needs” category.

During the compliance period Canada has taken actions in four of the categories defined by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on development. It has taken actions in four of the above-mentioned categories.

On 4 December 2014, Chinese President Xi Jinping and South African President Jacob Zuma signed the 5-10 Years Strategic Plan on Cooperation Between the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa 2015-2024, and multiple cooperation documents covering economy, trade, investment, agriculture and other fields.¹⁶⁸² This fact fits into the category of trade-related needs, because China develops cooperation with South Africa in economy, trade, investment and agriculture.

On 17 December 2014, China, Serbia, Hungary and Macedonia signed a memorandum of understanding on joint construction of the Hungary-Serbia railway. This express passage links a Greek port and the landlocked Hungary to speed up transportation between China and Europe. It will link the Greek sea port of Piraeus in the south and Budapest in the north, stringing the Macedonian capital of Skopje and Belgrade.¹⁶⁸³ Thus this fact can be classified as trade-related infrastructure category, because China helps to improve trade networks between China, Serbia, Hungary and Macedonia by construction of the Hungary-Serbia railway.

On 17 December 2014, China’s Premier Li Keqiang met with Prime Minister Edi Rama of Albania in Belgrade. At the meeting Li Keqiang said that China is ready to participate in the infrastructure cooperation including highway, railway and port in Albania, expand the financing channels and enrich the financing approaches, continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to invest and construct cement plants in Albania and participate in the cooperation projects related to the mining resources, economic parks, tourism facilities and other fields.¹⁶⁸⁴ Consequently this fact can be considered as trade-related infrastructure category and production capacity building category, because China promotes not only infrastructure projects as highway and railway, but also participates in development of mining resources and tourism facilities.

On 17 December 2014, China, Hungary, Serbia and Macedonia signed the document of Cooperation Framework on Custom Clearance Facilitation and thus supported trade liberalization and investment

¹⁶⁸¹ Renewed Negotiations Toward a Canada–Ukraine Free Trade Agreement to Promote Growth and Prosperity in Ukraine. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/comm/news-communicues/2015/01/26a.aspx?lang=eng>

¹⁶⁸² Xi Jinping Holds Talks with President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, Comprehensively Planning Bilateral Cooperation and Injecting New Impetus into China-South Africa Relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1217316.shtml

¹⁶⁸³ China, CEE countries eye land-sea express passage, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/premier/news/2014/12/18/content_281475025689786.htm

¹⁶⁸⁴ Li Keqiang Meets with Prime Minister Edi Rama of Albania, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1220934.shtml

facilitation to the outside.¹⁶⁸⁵ Consequently this fact can be categorized as trade-related adjustment strategy, because China, Hungary, Serbia and Macedonia signed the document that facilitates custom clearance procedure.

On 22 December 2014, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha signed a memorandum of understanding on farm produce trade cooperation and of railway cooperation, agreeing to jointly build Thailand's first standard-gauge railway lines with a total length of more than 800 km. The project is estimated to cost some USD10.6 billion, and will connect northeast Thailand's Nong Khai province, Bangkok and eastern Rayong province. The new railway will also benefit neighbouring countries if being extended to other places of the region. Chinese standards, equipment and manufacturing capacity will all be used in building the Thai railway.¹⁶⁸⁶ Hereby this fact can be categorized as trade-related infrastructure category and production capacity building category, because China not only helps Thailand to build railway lines, but also stimulates its farm produce trade cooperation.

On 22 December 2014, the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Belarus signed the Cooperative Protocol on Jointly Constructing "the Economic Belt of the Silk Road" in Beijing. According to the protocol both sides will jointly promote the construction of this road to improve the cooperation in trade, investment, economy, technology and industrial parks and advance the interconnectivity of infrastructure. Both sides will launch a number of big projects such as machine manufacturing, telecommunications and infrastructure through the platform of the China-Belarus industrial park to conduct logistics and transportation cooperation and strive to build the China-Belarus industrial park into an example project in "the Economic Belt of the Silk Road."¹⁶⁸⁷ Therefore this fact can be considered as trade-related infrastructure category, because China and Belarus will jointly promote the construction of "the Economic Belt of the Silk Road" that will improve logistics and transportation cooperation between these two countries.

On 28 December 2014, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of Bangladesh in Dhaka. During the meeting China committed to solve the imbalance in bilateral trade and sign the bilateral free trade agreement with Bangladesh to remove trade barrier and improve bilateral market access. China is ready to share its advantages with Bangladesh in agricultural production, science, technology and machinery, carry out cooperation in hybrid rice planting and help it consolidate development foundation. China will share experience with Bangladesh in constructing industrial park, train management talents and advance industrial level, will share its technological and price advantages in infrastructure construction and construct railway, port, road and bridge to improve its development conditions. China will encourage investment in Bangladesh and export advanced production capacity to the country, develop thermal power and hydropower facilities to remove the bottleneck of its development, and participate in oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh. China appreciates Bangladesh's support to the construction of the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar economic corridor, and will cooperate with the country to actively

¹⁶⁸⁵ Li Keqiang Meets with Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski of Macedonia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.
http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1220937.shtml

¹⁶⁸⁶ China joins hands with neighbors to elevate subregional development, the State Council of the People's Republic of China 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/premier/news/2014/12/21/content_281475027371201.htm

¹⁶⁸⁷ Chinese Ministry of Commerce Signs Protocol on Jointly Constructing Silk Road Economic Belt with Belarusian Ministry of Economy in Beijing, the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China 22 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201412/20141200851925.shtml>

advance relevant projects through bilateral and multilateral channels.¹⁶⁸⁸ Thus this fact can be qualified as trade-related infrastructure category, production capacity building category and trade-related adjustment strategy, because China develops infrastructure construction in Bangladesh, advances production capacity in agriculture, science, technology and machinery and solves the imbalance in bilateral trade and signs bilateral free trade agreement.

On 9 February 2015, at the first round of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Strategic Dialogue, which was held in Kabul, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao¹⁶⁸⁹ stated that China agreed to lend its support to the initiatives aimed at enhancing highway and railway connection, interconnectivity and economic and trade interaction between Afghanistan and Pakistan.¹⁶⁹⁰ Hereby this fact is classified as trade-related infrastructure category, because China will develop highway and railway connection in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

On 9 February 2015, Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda of Uganda met with China State Councillor Yang Jiechi in Kampala. Yang Jiechi said that China will share its experience with Uganda in planning, designing, development and construction industrial parks, promote bilateral industrial cooperation. China will encourage Chinese enterprises to run a business in Uganda in planting, breeding, warehouse construction, agricultural product processing and other sectors, participate in the development and construction of transportation, energy, mining, network, electric power and other projects, help the country construct infrastructure, enhance added value of products and boost local employment. China hopes that in a short time Uganda could provide a convenient environment for Chinese enterprises investing in the country.¹⁶⁹¹ This fact could be classified as trade-related infrastructure category and production capacity building category, because China will develop infrastructure projects in Uganda and advance production capacity by development of mining, energy, electric power and other projects.

On 26 March 2015, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with the Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan. Li said China wants to help Armenia build steel, cement and flat glass production lines, and participate in infrastructure construction to promote Armenia's industrialization.¹⁶⁹² This fact can be considered as production capacity building category, because China committed to develop infrastructure construction in Armenia.

On 6 May 2015, it was announced that China pledged USD500,000 to the Least Developed Countries and Accessions Programme of the World Trade Organization (WTO). The program aims to assist least-developed countries (LDCs) in integrating into the global economy by strengthening their participation in WTO activities and helping those not yet members to join the organization through providing accessions internships, roundtable meetings, ensuring developing countries'

¹⁶⁸⁸ Wang Yi Holds Talks with Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of Bangladesh, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 28 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1224200.shtml

¹⁶⁸⁹ First Round of China-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Strategic Dialogue Held in Kabul, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1236606.shtml

¹⁶⁹⁰ Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on February 10, 2015, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 10 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/t1236313.shtml

¹⁶⁹¹ Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda of Uganda Meets with Yang Jiechi, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China 9 February 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1236932.shtml

¹⁶⁹² Chinese premier meets Armenian president, Hengyang Municipal People's Government 26 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.enhengyang.gov.cn/showdetail.aspx?newsid=12944>

participation in the WTO meetings, engaging in South-South dialogue on LDCs and development, conducting LDCs' Trade Policy Review follow-up workshops.¹⁶⁹³ This falls in the categories of trade-related adjustment and technical assistance for trade policy and regulations in the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade.

During the compliance period China has taken actions in four of the categories, specified by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analysts: Svetlana Nikitina and Nadezhda Sporysheva

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions in two of the above-mentioned categories.

On 14 December 2014, PROPARCO, a division of French Development Agency, granted a EUR30 million loan to a container terminal operator at the Port of Lomé in Togo.¹⁶⁹⁴ This financing was designed to support the construction of a terminal, it was a part of loan arranged by several international financial institutions. New port facilities will contribute to reducing transport and export costs for goods for the region and to partially decongesting existing ports.¹⁶⁹⁵ This action falls into the “trade-related infrastructure” category defined by the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade.

On 21 April 2015, the Agence française du développement announced a project in Mozambique, with financing of EUR0.5 million to expand the range and quality of the products and services.¹⁶⁹⁶ This action falls into the “productive capacity building” category of the Task Force on Aid for Trade.

During the compliance period France has taken actions in two of the categories defined by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

On 9 March 2015, Germany’s Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development hosted in Berlin discussions under the heading “Defining Values for Negotiation Support” as part of the G7-CONNEX initiative.¹⁶⁹⁷ Among the participants were over 100 providers of consulting services, representatives of partner countries, companies and nongovernmental organizations including Fatima Aycl, the African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, and Ganzorig Temuulen, Vice-

¹⁶⁹³ China pledges USD 500,000 to support WTO accession and least-developed countries, WTO 6 May 2015. Date of Access 27 May 2015. https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres15_e/pr742_e.htm.

¹⁶⁹⁴ PROPARCO supports the Port of Lomé in Togo Date of Access: 22 April 2015..

http://www.proparco.fr/Accueil_PROPARCO/Publications-Proparco/News_PROPARCO/ctnscroll_ActualitesList/6_12

¹⁶⁹⁵ Developing marine transport in Togo. Date of Access: 22 April 2015..

http://www.proparco.fr/lang/en/Accueil_PROPARCO/Activite/PageCacheeAnte2011/Tous-les-projets/developper-le-transport-maritime-au-togo

¹⁶⁹⁶ Appui au développement de l’activité méso-finance de ProCredit Mozambique. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.. <http://www.afd.fr/base-projets/consulterProjet.action?idProjet=CMZ1102>

¹⁶⁹⁷ G7-CONNEX-Konferenz Zu Vertragsverhandlungen Im Rohstoffsektor, Bundesministerium Für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit Und Entwicklung 9 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/20150309-1>

Minister of Mines in Mongolia. (The G7-CONNEX initiative was officially launched by the Heads of State and Government of the G7 in 2014 at the summit in Brussels to life. It aims to improve the support available to developing countries in specific negotiations on complex commercial contracts, particularly in the natural resources sector. On the German side, Günter Nooke, Representative of the BMZ in Africa, significantly contributes to the process.) The central topics of discussion were better ways of negotiating contracts on commodities and minimum standards applicable to external consultants. Thus, the event can be regarded as technical assistance for trade policy and regulations.

On 16 February 2015, Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary to the German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development (MECD), visited a dairy in Afghanistan receiving financial support from Germany (as a part of the annual assistance of EUR250 million to Afghanistan from the ministerial funds).¹⁶⁹⁸ Silberhorn laid the foundation stone for an engineering college in the course of a project done by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on behalf of MECD. (GIZ is a federal enterprise that supports the German government in achieving its objectives in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development.¹⁶⁹⁹) The project titled “Promoting vocational training in Afghanistan” was launched by GIZ in 2010 and expires in 2017.¹⁷⁰⁰ The approach of the project is to create a technical and vocational education and training system in Afghanistan. Among the recent achievements is an agreement between businesses and the Afghan Ministry of Education that will enable students who have trained in traditional workshops without gaining a recognized state qualification to attend vocational schools as well.¹⁷⁰¹ The aim of Germany’s support in Afghanistan is to help workers receive up-to-date knowledge in their professional fields, thus enhancing efficiency, revealing the comparative advantages of producers and extending their range of products. The result of a similar project in Ghana was the improved quality of some products, which means they can now be sold on the international market.¹⁷⁰² Therefore, we can regard such measures as productive capacity building.

During the compliance period Germany has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in two categories specified by the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: 0

India has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

¹⁶⁹⁸ Parliamentary State Secretary Thomas Silberhorn Speaks Of Remarkable Progress On Development In Northern Afghanistan, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.bmz.de/20150216-1en>

¹⁶⁹⁹ Profil, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.giz.de/en/aboutgiz/profile.html>

¹⁷⁰⁰ Zukunftsperspektiven Durch Berufsbildung, Deutsche Gesellschaft Für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/14616.html>

¹⁷⁰¹ Deutsches Know-How Für Berufliche Bildung In Afghanistan, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/29584.html>

¹⁷⁰² Zitrusbauern in Ghana: Verbesserte Erträge, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit 2 April 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.giz.de/en/mediacenter/31804.html>

On 24-28 November 2014 Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development for Textile Sector was held in Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (Ahmedabad).¹⁷⁰³ This event is a part of the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa, which is implemented by India's Department of Commerce of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs. A special steering committee was set up to monitor the project.¹⁷⁰⁴ An important player in the global cotton and textile markets, India can provide assistance to African countries, participating in the program (Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Nigeria, Malawi, Uganda). The project will help these developing countries¹⁷⁰⁵ to strengthen their national cotton industries which have a large share in their exports and gross domestic product and thus may be considered as productive capacity building.¹⁷⁰⁶

On 22 January 2015, the Secretariat on Economic and Financial Cooperation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) emphasized the great importance of trade cooperation in the region. It was noted that several mechanisms were set up to spur the process of turning South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) into a South Asian economic union. The SAFTA Committee of Exports stated that value of exports has sharply increased since the Trade Liberalization Programme went into effect. The agreements reached in this sphere lay the foundation for members' national trade strategies, so collaborating within SAARC India provides technical assistance to developing countries for trade policy and regulations.¹⁷⁰⁷

During the compliance period India has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in two of the five categories specified by the World Trade Organization's Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matinkhina

Indonesia: -1

Indonesia has not complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

No evidence of Indonesia taking any actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries have was found during the compliance period.

During the compliance period Indonesia has failed to take actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries. Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepon

¹⁷⁰³ Training Programme on Entrepreneurship Development for Textile Sector, Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa 24-28 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

http://cottontapafrika.org/pdf/CottonTAP_EDPTraining_ProgrammeSchedule.pdf.

¹⁷⁰⁴ Implementation Mechanism, Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.cottontapafrika.org/implementing-mechanism.html>.

¹⁷⁰⁵ Country and Lending Groups, the World Bank. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups>.

¹⁷⁰⁶ Background, Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

<http://www.cottontapafrika.org/background.html>.

¹⁷⁰⁷ Note by the secretariat of economic and financial cooperation, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation 22 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. http://www.saarc-sec.org/uploads/document/Note%20on%20Eco%20and%20Fin%20Coop%20-%2022%20January%202015_20150122045846.doc.

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

Italy is currently implementing two development assistance projects in Albania, aimed at improving the country's infrastructural linkages to better engage in international trade. These projects include:

- Rehabilitation of the port of Vlora. The Italian Cooperation Agency assists the Albanian government in improving the port infrastructure facilities, raising the efficiency of port administration, reducing docking operations time, providing a EUR15 million loan.¹⁷⁰⁸
- Construction of the Lushnje-Fier motorway and supervision of the work on the road from Lushnje to Fier and Fier to Vlore. The Italian Cooperation Agency provides a EUR24.35 million loan to the Albanian government to construct efficient road network within the country, which will improve Albania's connectivity to the markets of the European Union, as well as benefiting the EU, which considers the Lushnje-Fier-Vlore route an integrating part of the pan-European Corridor VIII.¹⁷⁰⁹

During the compliance period Italy has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in one of the categories specified by the World Trade Organization's Task Force on Aid for Trade — trade-related infrastructure. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

On 10 January 2015, Ogawa Kazuya, Japan's Ambassador to Rwanda, Akihiko Tanaka, President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Moriya, JICA's Chief Representative to Rwanda, Yasunori Onishi, JICA's Chief Representative to Tanzania, together with Tanzanian and Rwandan officials, opened the One Stop Border Post. This project aims to simplify customs procedures between Tanzania and Rwanda. Through the project, trade and investment in the Eastern African region will be expanded.¹⁷¹⁰ This project falls into the "trade-related infrastructure" category defined by the Task Force on Aid for Trade of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

On 9 March 2015, JICA and the Kenya Ports Authority signed the agreement to provide official development assistance (ODA) in the form of a loan of JPY 32,116 billion for the second phase of the Mombasa Port Development Project. This loan will increase demand for cargo volume and make port management more efficient, with the objectives of promoting trade and contributing to socioeconomic development in the region overall, including Kenya and neighbouring countries.¹⁷¹¹

¹⁷⁰⁸ Riabilitazione del Porto di Valona - Costruzione e Direzione Lavori, Italian Cooperation agency in Albania. Date of access: 17 May 2015. http://www.italcoopalbania.org/progetto_info.php?i&idp=41.

¹⁷⁰⁹ Costruzione del tratto stradale Lushnje-Fier e supervisione dei lavori per i due tratti contigui Lushnje-Fier e Fier-Valona, Italian Cooperation agency in Albania. Date of access: 17 May 2015. http://www.italcoopalbania.org/progetto_info.php?i&idp=38.

¹⁷¹⁰ New Station at Tanzania-Rwanda Border Simplifies Customs to Boost Trade. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2015/150414_02.html

¹⁷¹¹ Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of Kenya for Mombasa Port Development Project (Phase 2). Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2014/150310_01.html

This project falls into the “trade-related infrastructure,” “trade-related adjustment,” and “productive capacity building” categories of the Task Force on Aid for Trade.

On 26 March 2015, JICA provided ODA in the form of a JPY 35,178 billion loan to Myanmar for two projects. The second project, Communication Network Improvement Project, will improve increase the communication capacity among three cities, contributing to economic development and trade.¹⁷¹² This project falls into the “trade-related infrastructure” category.

On 23 January 2015, Japan provided to Papua New Guinea JPY 3160 million to reconstruct two bridges on New Britain Island. The grant agreement for the project was concluded on 30 January 2015.¹⁷¹³ In 2015 Japan allowed Papua New Guinea to embark on a tangible development funded trade and investment. This project falls into the “trade-related infrastructure” category.

During the compliance period Japan has taken actions in three of the five categories defined by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: 0

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade. It has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries.

From 23 February to 14 March 2015, the Korea International Cooperation Agency conducted a “Trade Promotion for African Countries” Fellowship Program. There were 18 government officials from the international trade and economic development ministries and agencies of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Tunisia who took part in the program under the framework of Korea’s grant aid and technical cooperation for 2015. The program’s goals included knowledge and experience sharing in the international trade and economic development strategy of Korea; assistance in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of mobilization of development resources and fostering capacity building; and developing cooperative relations between African countries and Korea.¹⁷¹⁴ This program falls into “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” category of the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade.

From 9 to 22 March 2015, the Korea Trade and Investment Promotion Agency implemented a Capacity Reinforcement of Trade and Investment Promotion Fields program for Vietnamese participants. There were 15 Vietnamese officials from trade and investment promotion took part in the program, which addressed such issues as formulating export-oriented economic development strategies; increasing international competitiveness for Vietnam in international trade through benchmarking of Korea’s trade environment; and developing trade and investment promotion policies and strategies for Vietnam.¹⁷¹⁵ This program falls into “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” and “other trade-related needs” categories.

¹⁷¹² Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. http://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2014/150326_02.html

¹⁷¹³ Signing of Grant Agreement for the Project for Reconstruction of Bridges on New Britain Highway. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.jica.go.jp/png/english/office/topics/150130.html>

¹⁷¹⁴ Trade Promotion for African Countries, Korea International Cooperation Agency 17 February 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1319249_3545.html.

¹⁷¹⁵ Capacity Reinforcement of Trade and Investment Promotion Fields (Vietnam), Korea International Cooperation Agency 6 March 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1319377_3545.html.

From 19 April to 9 May 2015, the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency conducted a program for capacity building for trade and investment promotion in Tanzania. There were 15 Tanzanian officials in charge of trade policy in the program, aimed at sharing practical trade promotion and investment skills, encouraging “all project participants to utilize their own strength when they negotiate good agreements by targeting Tanzania’s specific sectors” and promoting feasibility and suitability of Tanzania’s economic environment.¹⁷¹⁶ This program falls into “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” category.

During the compliance period Korea has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in two of the categories specified by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Mexico: 0

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on providing aid for trade to developing countries.

On 25 February 2015, at the second meeting of Commission for Cooperation of Mexico — Costa Rica Council for Strategic Association (Comisión de Cooperación del Consejo de Asociación Estratégica México-Costa Rica) the cooperation projects to be implemented in 2015 were discussed, and in particular the cooperation between Costa Rican Ministry of Economy, Industry and Trade (MEIC) and Mexican Federal Commission on Regulatory Improvement (COFEMER) aimed at sharing experience and training the MEIC officials by COFEMER.¹⁷¹⁷ This fact is related to the World Trade Organization’s Task Force on Aid for Trade category of “technical assistance for trade policy and regulations” as it is aimed at training the Costa Rican officials on the trade policy issues.

On 13 March 2015, on occasion of visit by Guatemalan President Otto Pérez Molina to Mexico, the joint declaration was signed.¹⁷¹⁸ The leaders of Mexico and Guatemala confirmed the importance of Mexico — Central America free trade agreement (TLC México-Centroamérica) mechanism and encouraged holding a second meeting of TLC Administration Commission in 2015 to facilitate trade between TLC parties and increase their trade potential.¹⁷¹⁹ This fact is related to the category of “trade-related adjustment.”

During the compliance period Mexico has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries only in two of the five categories, specified by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

¹⁷¹⁶ Capacity Building for Trade and Investment Promotion (Tanzania) II, Korea International Cooperation Agency 16 April 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://www.koica.go.kr/english/board/whats_new/1319603_3545.html.

¹⁷¹⁷ MÉXICO Y COSTA RICA COMPARTEN SUS CAPACIDADES LOCALES PARA FORTALECER A LA REGIÓN. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://amexcid.gob.mx/index.php/es/prensa/comunicados/2174-mexico-y-costa-rica-comparten-sus-capacidades-locales-para-fortalecer-a-la-region>.

¹⁷¹⁸ Declaración Conjunta con motivo de la Visita Oficial a México del Presidente de Guatemala, Otto Pérez Molina. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/declaracion-conjunta-con-motivo-de-la-visita-oficial-a-mexico-del-presidente-de-guatemala-otto-perez-molina/>.

¹⁷¹⁹ Declaración Conjunta con motivo de la Visita Oficial a México del Presidente de Guatemala, Otto Pérez Molina. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/declaracion-conjunta-con-motivo-de-la-visita-oficial-a-mexico-del-presidente-de-guatemala-otto-perez-molina/>.

Russia: –1

Russia has failed to comply with the commitment on aid for trade.

No actions aimed at providing aid for trade to developing countries by Russia were registered during the compliance period. Thus, Russia is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: –1

Saudi Arabia has failed to comply with the commitment on aid for trade.

During the compliance period Saudi Arabia has not taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in any of the categories specified by the World Trade Organization's Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

South Africa: –1

South Africa has failed to comply with the commitment on aid for trade.

According to the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as an upper middle income country South Africa belongs to the group of recipients of aid for trade.¹⁷²⁰

No evidence of South Africa's efforts to provide aid for trade to developing countries in need of assistance was registered. Thus, it has been awarded a score of –1.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: 0

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

On 12 February 2015, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Turkish government and the Istanbul Bilgi University in Turkey launched the WTO Chairs Programme at the Faculty of Law, Istanbul Bilgi University. This initiative is aimed at further developing academic courses, promoting new research initiatives, and linking up these enhanced institutional capacities to other universities and research institutions in Turkey and neighboring countries. This measure can be considered as addressing other trade-related needs of developing countries in accordance with the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade.¹⁷²¹

During the compliance period Turkey has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in one of the five categories specified by the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

¹⁷²⁰ Global Review of Aid for Trade 2011, World Trade Organization 2012. Date of Access: 29 April 2015.
https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/devel_e/a4t_e/african_case_stories_e.pdf.

¹⁷²¹ DDG Yi awards WTO Chair to Istanbul Bilgi University, WTO 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015.
https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news15_e/chair_12feb15_e.htm.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on aid for trade.

In December 2014, the Trade Policy Unit of the UK Department for International Development (DFID) updated its Operational Plan for 2011-2016. The plan provides for measures to increase and make more effective the participation of developing countries in trade negotiations, ensure targeted support to least-developed countries to assess their trade needs, enhance trade finance for poor countries and inform consumers about impact of barriers on consumer goods' price.¹⁷²²

DFID is providing financial support to its Trade Advocacy Fund. In 2011-2016, the fund is expected to receive more than GBP3.1 million to help least-developed and low-income countries to participate more effectively in international trade negotiations.¹⁷²³ This action falls into the technical assistance for trade policy and regulations category of the WTO recommendations.

In 2015, DFID will spend more than GBP4.7 million on making the customs services at the South Sudan's border with Uganda more effective and transparent. To increase the volume and value of dutiable trade, DFID will not only improve relevant infrastructure, but also increase the capacity of associated trade-related institutions in South Sudan.¹⁷²⁴ This action falls into the trade-related infrastructure and other trade-related needs categories of the WTO recommendations.

In 2015-2016, DFID is expected to spend more than GBP4 million to support the International Trade Centre. Apart from other objectives, the project is aimed at increasing women entrepreneurs' participation in trade and creating better environment for women informal cross-border traders to engage in trade.¹⁷²⁵ This action falls into the productive capacity building category of the WTO recommendations.

On 31 July 2015, DFID will complete its project aimed at supporting the World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Trade and Development. In particular, the UK provides financing to build analytical base for policy action to address barriers to trade and enhance trade liberalization, in particular in low-income countries.¹⁷²⁶ This action falls into the other trade-related needs category of the WTO recommendations.

During the compliance period the UK has taken actions to provide aid for trade to developing countries in four of the five categories specified by the WTO Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on development.

¹⁷²² Operational plan 2011-2016. Trade Policy Unit, UK Government 18 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/389428/trade-policy-unit1.pdf.

¹⁷²³ Advocacy Fund - Trade Window, Development Tracker 25 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202089/>.

¹⁷²⁴ Custom Development & Trade Facilitation Support in South Sudan, Development Tracker 28 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-202514/>.

¹⁷²⁵ Support to the International Trade Centre Phase II, Development Tracker 28 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203984/>.

¹⁷²⁶ World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Trade and Development Phase 2, Development Tracker 7 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203528/>.

In terms of productive capacity building, on 5 March 2015, US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker opened the Regional Investments to Support Entrepreneurship, a public-private partnership to facilitate trade and investment between the US and Tunisia. US private actors will help their Tunisian partners to gain access to funds for entrepreneurs, to develop incubators and accelerators in Tunisia, and provide training and mentoring.¹⁷²⁷

On 17 March 2015, the US Department of Commerce and the Brazilian Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade held the first US-Brazil Standards and Conformance Convergence Roundtable in Washington, where these two departments pledged to invite the US and Brazilian private companies for cooperation to increase bilateral trade, and US and Brazilian standards stakeholders were introduced to each other. On 19 March 2015, the US and Brazil signed a memorandum of intent to promote trade.¹⁷²⁸

On trade-related infrastructure, on 21 November 2014, the United States and Mexico reached a modernized air service agreement. The new agreement will provide unlimited market access for US and Mexican air carriers and give further new opportunities in the sphere of transportation.¹⁷²⁹ The new agreement will benefit various economic agents, including shippers.¹⁷³⁰

On 25 February 2015, the US Department of Commerce and the National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines launched the US-Philippines Infrastructure Collaboration Platform to help local Philippine governments develop infrastructure and to expand the US-Philippine trade relations.¹⁷³¹

On trade-related adjustments, in February 2015, the US and the East African Community signed a cooperation agreement to increase trade-related capacity in three key areas: trade facilitation, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade. The agreement represents a milestone for Trade Africa initiative announced by US President Barack Obama in 2013 and focused at increasing trade and investment between Africa and the US.¹⁷³²

¹⁷²⁷ U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker Announces Public-Private Partnership to Strengthen Entrepreneurship in Tunisia, U.S. Department of Commerce 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2015/03/us-commerce-secretary-penny-pritzker-announces-public-private>.

¹⁷²⁸ The U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue Joint Statement, U.S. International Trade Administration 19 March 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://trade.gov/press/press-releases/2015/us-brazil-commercial-dialogue-joint-statement-03192015.asp>.

¹⁷²⁹ United States, Mexico Reach Modernized Aviation Agreement, U.S. Department of Transportation 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 20 April 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/united-states-mexico-reach-modernized-aviation-agreement>.

¹⁷³⁰ Joint Statement: United States-Mexico High Level Economic Dialogue, U.S. Department of Commerce 6 January 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2015/01/joint-statement-united-states-mexico-high-level-economic-dialogue>.

¹⁷³¹ U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Economic Development Authority of the Philippines Agree to Coordinate, Cooperate on Infrastructure Projects, U.S. International Trade Administration 25 February 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.trade.gov/press/press-releases/2015/us-department-of-commerce-and-the-national-economic-development-authority-of-the-philippines-agree-to-coordinate-cooperate-on-infrastructure-projects-022515.asp>.

¹⁷³² U.S. and East African Community Join to Increase Trade Competitiveness and Deepen Economic Ties, Office of the United States Trade Representative February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2015/february/us-and-east-african-community-join>.

The US has taken steps in three out of five categories in the Task Force on Aid for Trade. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with the commitment on development.

On 23 March 2015, in a speech titled “The Commission’s Future Trade Strategy” Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade, confirmed that development of poorer countries around the world is one of the objectives of EU. She said that EU is working to finally close the Doha Round of negotiations at the World Trade Organization and to open markets for developing countries.¹⁷³³

On 13 April 2015, the European Commission published the “Position Paper on the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment in Support of Negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement Between the European Union and Morocco.” According to the document, the agreement between EU and Morocco is expected to give rise to positive macroeconomic effects for both regions. The gains in gross domestic product (GDP) in relative terms are negligible for the EU, but cause a 1.6% GDP increase for Morocco in the long term.¹⁷³⁴

On 13 April 2015, the European Commission also published the “Position Paper on the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment in Support of Negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement Between the European Union and Tunisia.” According to the document, while the impact of the agreement on the EU’s GDP is expected to be negligible, it will cause a 7% GDP increase in the long term for Tunisia.¹⁷³⁵

The European Commission scheduled the roundtable about trade and sustainable development in EU and Vietnam relations on 12 May 2015.¹⁷³⁶

The European Union has taken actions in one of necessary categories, providing technical assistance for trade policy and regulations. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

¹⁷³³ The Commission's Future Trade Strategy, European Commission 23 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/march/tradoc_153265.pdf

¹⁷³⁴ European Commission Services' Position Paper on the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment in Support of Negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Morocco, European Commission 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/april/tradoc_153336.pdf

¹⁷³⁵ European Commission Services' Position Paper on the Trade Sustainability Impact Assessment in Support of Negotiations of a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and Tunisia, European Commission 13 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/april/tradoc_153337.pdf

¹⁷³⁶ Trade, Sustainable Development and Human Rights in EU-Vietnam Relations, European Commission 17 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2015/april/tradoc_153334.pdf

17. Infrastructure

“We ... will work on ways to mobilise long-term financing for infrastructure.”

G20 Brisbane Action Plan

Assessment

Country	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85	

Background

In July 2013 the G20 Study Group on Financing for Investment produced the Workplan on Financing for Investment Study Group’s Findings and Ways Forward. The plan, among other things, emphasized mobilizing private sources of financing for infrastructure as one of five important topics of the study group’s work.¹⁷³⁷

In Brisbane the G20 leaders highlighted the importance of long-term financing, focusing on infrastructure investment, to foster long-term growth. The G20 Global Infrastructure Initiative (GII) was launched as “a multi-year program to support public and private investment in quality infrastructure.”¹⁷³⁸

Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to mobilize infrastructure financing. The individual growth strategies of several G20 members contain a (non-exhaustive) list of planned measures to

¹⁷³⁷ G20 Workplan on Financing for Investment Study Group’s Findings and Ways Forward, G20 Russia July 2014. Date of access: 22 January 2015. en.g20russia.ru/load/782804292.

¹⁷³⁸ G20 Note on the Global Infrastructure Initiative and Hub, G20 Information Centre 14 November 2014. Date of access: 22 January 2015. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_note_global_infrastructure_initiative_hub.pdf.

mobilize long-term infrastructure financing. These actions' implementation will also contribute to the fulfillment of this commitment.¹⁷³⁹

The GII emphasizes supporting public and private investment as a key objective of the initiative. Thus, to register full compliance with the commitment members should take actions to mobilize both public and private financing for infrastructure. These may include not only governments' direct funding or stimulating actions, but also creating conditions that are favourable to long-term investment financing.¹⁷⁴⁰

The GII contains examples of policy actions that the G20 members agreed upon in order to lower barriers to investment, increase the availability of investment-ready projects, help match potential investors with projects and improve policy delivery, including through:

- developing a knowledge-sharing network to aggregate and share information on infrastructure projects and financing between governments, international organisations, development banks, national infrastructure institutions and the private sector;
- addressing key data gaps that matter to investors;
- developing effective approaches to implement the voluntary G20 Leading Practices on Promoting and Prioritizing Quality Investment, including model documentation covering project identification, preparation and procurement;
- building the capacity of officials to improve institutional arrangements for infrastructure by sharing best practice approaches; and
- enhancing investment opportunities by developing a consolidated database of infrastructure projects, connected to national and relevant multilateral development bank databases, to help match potential investors with projects.¹⁷⁴¹

Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member fails to take actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure.
0	Member takes actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from either private or public sources.
+1	Member takes actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources.

Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On 24 November 2014, it was reported¹⁷⁴² that Aeropuertos Argentina 2000 had announced the start of the construction of a new terminal at the airport Comodoro Rivadavia General Enrique Mosconi

¹⁷³⁹ G20 Member Growth Strategies, Australian G20 Presidency. Date of access: 29 January 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/official_resources/current_presidency/growth_strategies.

¹⁷⁴⁰ G20/OECD High-Level Principles of Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors, OECD September 2013. Date of access: 22 January 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/finance/private-pensions/G20-OECD-Principles-LTI-Financing.pdf>.

¹⁷⁴¹ The G20 Global Infrastructure Initiative, G20 Information Centre 14 November 2014. Date of Access: 16 February 2015. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_note_global_infrastructure_initiative_hub.pdf.

during the week before. The first phase of the project is worth about USD1.7 million and is going to become one of the major private investments in airport infrastructure. The authorities of Argentina position airport infrastructure as one of the target fields for private investment (as in its comprehensive growth strategy presented at the Brisbane Summit),¹⁷⁴³ which might have fostered this investment.

On 11, 18, 28 May 2015 and 1 June 2015 Foro de la Infraestructura y la Construcción 2015 will be held in Rosario to foster infrastructural development and long-term (both private and public) investment in infrastructure.¹⁷⁴⁴

Argentina has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 7 January 2015, the Minister of Interior and Transportation of Argentina, Florencio Randazzo, visited the station Ing. Maschwitz and signed the award of rebuilding four stations of the diesel branch of the Mitre line. In addition, it was announced that since 1 March a new modern train will connect Buenos Aires with Rosario, the third largest city of the country.¹⁷⁴⁵ This step is a part of the state program of renovation of the Mitre line that is to cost the government USD228.6 million.¹⁷⁴⁶

On 11 February 2015, the website of the President of Argentina, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, announced that USD15 million will be invested by the government in school infrastructure in 2015.¹⁷⁴⁷

On 27 February 2015, it was announced that Argentina would invest USD1.8 billion to build a pipeline to import Bolivian gas to supply its northeastern provinces. The new pipe will connect the existing pipeline network with the rural provinces of Salta, Santa Fe, etc. therefore significantly improving infrastructure in the region. The entire pipeline is due to be constructed by 2016. Not only the project mobilizes public financing for infrastructure in the next two years, but it might also lead to further long-term financing in the future.¹⁷⁴⁸

From 22 to 24 April 2015, President Kirchner visited Russian Federation, where she signed a contract with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to which Russia is to spend up to

¹⁷⁴² Argentina es el país que más invertirá en aeropuertos de la región, *El Economista*. 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://eleconomista.com.mx/industrias/2014/11/24/argentina-pais-que-mas-invertira-aeropuertos-region>.

¹⁷⁴³ G20 Member Growth Strategies, Australian G20 Presidency. Date of access: 29 January 2015. http://www.g20australia.org/official_resources/current_presidency/growth_strategies.

¹⁷⁴⁴ Acerca del Evento. Foro de la Infraestructura y la Construcción. Date of Access: 1 May 2015. <http://fic2015.com.ar/index.php/acerca-del-evento>

¹⁷⁴⁵ El 1º de Marzo Volverá a Funcionar el Tren Buenos Aires - Rosario con Formaciones 0km, Ministerio del Interior y Transporte de Argentina. 7 January 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.mininterior.gov.ar/prensa/prensa.php?i=3168>.

¹⁷⁴⁶ Renovación de la línea Mitre: 12 coches 0 km para el ramal Retiro-Tigre, Blog de Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.cfkargentina.com/renovacion-de-la-linea-mitre-12-coches-0-km-para-el-ramal-retiro-tigre/>.

¹⁷⁴⁷ Reparación y construcción de escuelas, equipamiento, infraestructura y playones deportivos, Blog de Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. 11 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.cfkargentina.com/inversion-educacion-fondo-reparaciones-escuelas/>.

¹⁷⁴⁸ Argentina to invest \$1.8 bln in Bolivian pipeline, *Interfax*. 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://interfaxenergy.com/gasdaily/article/15412/argentina-to-invest-18-bln-in-bolivian-pipeline>.

USD10,000 million on infrastructure development in Argentina. For example, it will take part in the construction of the sixth block of Atucha nuclear power plant.¹⁷⁴⁹¹⁷⁵⁰

In addition, Argentina continues mobilizing long-term public investment in accordance with its comprehensive growth strategy. One of the examples is the expansion of the Federal Optical Fiber Network (REFEFO) funded by the national Ministry for Planning. On 23 February 2015 the Municipality of Berazategui joined the network.¹⁷⁵¹

In addition, several airports have received modern airport pumps (as the airport of San Juan on 11 December 2014¹⁷⁵² or three other major airports on 27 November 2014¹⁷⁵³) from the National Administration of Civil Aviation (a department of the Ministry of Interior and Transport).

During the compliance period Argentina has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anton Markov

Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources.

The Australian government pledged to allocate AUD300 million over the five years from 2014-15 to the Bridges Renewal Programme, aimed “to contribute to the productivity of bridges serving local communities, and facilitate higher productivity vehicle access.” The government is to contribute no more than 50% of the total project cost through National Partnership Agreements to regional governments.¹⁷⁵⁴

As a part of the government’s long-term commitment to spend AUD50 billion on infrastructure, announced in 2014, several initiatives are being implemented with multiple construction projects funded through 2015-2016 FY. These include the Asset Recycling Initiative, Black Spot Projects, Bridges Renewal Programme, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Productivity Programme, Roads to Recovery

¹⁷⁴⁹ Cristina apura contratos por obras millonarias con Rusia, Clarín. 4 April 2014. Date of Access: 11 May 2015. http://www.ieco.clarin.com/economia/rusia-putin-cristina_kirchner-chihuidos-atucha_0_1333066741.html

¹⁷⁵⁰ Cristina confirmó que Rusia construirá una central nuclear en el país, Clarín. 22 April 2015. Date of Access 1 May 2015. http://www.clarin.com/politica/Cristina-confirmo-Rusia-construira-nuclear_0_1343865868.html

¹⁷⁵¹ Municipio de Berazategui se suma a la Red Federal de Fibra Óptica, Ministerio de Planificación de Argentina. 23 February 2015. Date of Access 7 April 2015. <http://www.minplan.gob.ar/noticia/19221/municipio-de-berazategui-se-suma-a-la-red-federal-de-fibra-optica.html>.

¹⁷⁵² El Aeropuerto de San Juan Recibió la Nueva Autobomba Aeroportuaria, Administración Nacional de Aviación Civil. Date of Access 7 April 2015. <http://www.anac.gov.ar/anac/web/index.php/1/1064/noticias-y-novedades/el-aeropuerto-de-san-juan-recibi-la-nueva-autobomba-aeroportuaria>.

¹⁷⁵³ Nuevas Autobombas Aeroportuarias en Tres Importantes Aeropuertos Nacionales, Administración Nacional de Aviación Civil. Date of Access 7 April 2015. <http://www.anac.gov.ar/anac/web/index.php/1/1043/noticias-y-novedades/nuevas-autobombas-aeroportuarias-ltbr-gten-tres-importantes-aeropuertos-nacionales>.

¹⁷⁵⁴ Bridges Renewal Programme, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/funding/Bridgesrenewal/Index.aspx>.

Programme and National Highway Upgrade Programme¹⁷⁵⁵ covering construction of new highways, bridges, freight corridors, port facilities, tunnels, railways, enhancing existing road safety, etc.¹⁷⁵⁶

On 12 May 2015, Treasurer Joe Hockey announced in his 2015 Budget Speech the government's plans for infrastructure building for the following year. Hockey characterized these plans as "the biggest infrastructure programme in Australia's history." The plan provides for the construction of new transport infrastructure across the entire country. A new AUD5 billion Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility was announced to develop Australia's northern regions. The treasurer stated that the government would engage in cooperation with the private sector and regional governments "to provide large concessional loans for the construction of ports, pipelines, electricity and water infrastructure."¹⁷⁵⁷

During the compliance period Australia has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On 19 December 2014, the Special Regime of Taxation of the National Broadband Plan (REPNBL), which will ensure about USD3 billion of private investment was approved.¹⁷⁵⁸ REPNBL promotes the exemption of federal taxes on the construction of broadband networks. On 15 January 2015, it was published that in order to access the benefits, companies must submit the projects to the Ministry of Communications until June 2015 to be authorized by the Internal Revenue Service.¹⁷⁵⁹

On 20 January 2015, it was announced that Brazilian Growth Acceleration Program aims to establish public-private partnership and promotes private participation in financing the largest investment projects such as Integração Projeto de Integração do Rio São Francisco, Morar Carioca — comunidade sustentável, Ferrovia Transcontinental and Metrô da Linha 6 de São Paulo.¹⁷⁶⁰

On the 4 February 2015, the Diário Oficial da União released the tender for concession of the road batch of BR-101 / RJ between the President Costa e Silva Bridge (Niterói) and the RJ 071 (Red Line).

¹⁷⁵⁵ Infrastructure Investment, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/>.

¹⁷⁵⁶ New South Wales—Key Projects, Australian Government. Date of access: 14 May 2015. http://investment.infrastructure.gov.au/publications/policies/pdf/Infrastructure_Omnibus.pdf.

¹⁷⁵⁷ Budget Speech 2015, Australian Government 12 May 2015. Date of access: 14 May 2015. <http://www.budget.gov.au/2015-16/content/speech/html/speech.htm>.

¹⁷⁵⁸ Regime de Tributação em Banda Larga Garante Investimentos de R\$ 7,9 bi, Portal Brasil 19 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/12/regime-de-tributacao-em-banda-larga-garante-investimentos-de-r-7-9-bi>

¹⁷⁵⁹ Portaria Reduz Exigências em Projetos Submetidos ao Regime Especial de Tributação, Portal Brasil 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/01/portaria-reduz-exigencias-em-projetos-submetidos-ao-regime-especial-de-tributacao>

¹⁷⁶⁰ Quatro Obras do PAC Estão Entre as 100 Mais Importantes do Mundo, Portal Brasil 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/01/quatro-obras-do-pac-estao-entre-as-100-mais-importantes-do-mundo>

The concession includes the operation, maintenance, monitoring, conservation and implementation of road system improvements in the segment.¹⁷⁶¹

On 12 February 2015, the Chief Minister of the National Secretariat of Ports, Edinho Araújo, highlighted the importance of private investments in the port sector. He held a meeting with businessmen where they discussed investment opportunities in the sector. According to the minister, in two years new private use terminals contracts will provide private investment of USD4 billion.¹⁷⁶²

Brazil has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 17 November 2014, Francisco José Teixeira, Minister of National Integration, declared that the construction of two dams in Acaraú basin and in Granja would be finished by the end of 2015.¹⁷⁶³

On 20 November 2014, Moreira Franco, Minister of Civil Aviation, said that subsidies for regional aviation are kept for next year. The government's plan includes the construction, expansion and reform of regional airports. The goal is also to create a national network of regional airports, so that 96% of the population live within 160 kilometres from any airport with regular flight. In 2015 about USD4.3 billion will be allocated to the program.¹⁷⁶⁴

On 2 December 2014, the National Department of Works Against Drought signed service contract for drilling and installation of over 40 public wells in eight cities in the state, benefiting over 40 communities with a total of approximately 200 families. It is one of four contracts for drilling and installation of 167 public wells, totalling USD3.16 million within the Water for All programs and Civil Defense.¹⁷⁶⁵

On 21 January 2015, it's announced that the National Department of Transport Infrastructure will implement a project of paving the 136 miles from the BR-235 which requires about USD145 million. The work will facilitate access and integration of the Sergipe coast the densely populated interior regions of the north-northeast Brazil, similarly to Juazeiro-Petrolina pole.¹⁷⁶⁶

¹⁷⁶¹ ANTT Publica Edital e Define Data para Leilão da Ponte Rio-Niterói, Portal Brasil 4 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/02/antt-publica-edital-e-define-data-para-leilao-da-ponte-rio-niteroi>

¹⁷⁶² Ministro Destaca Importância de Investimentos Privados no Setor Portuário, Portal Brasil 12 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/02/ministro-destaca-importancia-de-investimentos-privados-no-setor-portuario>

¹⁷⁶³ Ministro da Integração Diz que Novas Barragens Poderão ser Construídas no Ceará, Portal Brasil 18 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/11/ministro-da-integracao-diz-que-novas-barragens-poderao-ser-construidas-no-ceara>

¹⁷⁶⁴ Subsídio para Aviação Regional Está Mantido para 2015, Diz Ministro, Portal Brasil 20 November 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/11/subsidio-para-aviacao-regional-esta-mantido-para-2015-diz-ministro>

¹⁷⁶⁵ Piauí Receberá 29 Poços Públicos na Próxima Sexta, Portal Brasil 2 December 2014. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2014/12/piaui-recebera-29-pocos-publicos-na-proxima-sexta-5>

¹⁷⁶⁶ BR-235/BA: Obra Beneficiará Diretamente cerca de 600 Mil Habitantes, Brazilian Departamento Nacional de Infraestrutura de Transportes 21 January 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.dnit.gov.br/noticias/br-235-ba-investimento-beneficiara-cerca-de-600-mil-habitantes-1/?searchterm=BR-235>

On 27 February 2015, the wind farm Geribatu was opened in Santa Vitória do Palmar (RS). Investments in the wind farm and associated transmission systems were provided by the Growth Acceleration Program and amounted to USD900 million.¹⁷⁶⁷

On 28 February 2015, President Dilma Rousseff attended the inauguration of the wind farm Artilleros in Cologne 170 kilometres east of Montevideo. The investments to the project from Brazil and Uruguay through partnership between Eletrobras and the National Administration of Power Plants and Electrical Transmissions amounted to USD100 million. Part of the investments was funded by the Development Bank of Latin America.¹⁷⁶⁸ Moreover, the energy interconnection between Brazil and Uruguay will likely be launched by July.¹⁷⁶⁹

During the compliance period Brazil has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergey Burok

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources.

The New Building Canada Plan is the long-term infrastructure plan providing stable funding for a 10-year period, including: the Community Improvement Fund which will provide over CAD32 billion to municipalities for projects such as roads, public transit and recreational facilities, and other community infrastructure; a CAD14-billion New Building Canada Fund; an additional CAD1.25 billion in funding for the Public-Private Partnerships Canada Fund; CAD6 billion in funding continues to flow across the country this year and beyond under existing infrastructure programs.¹⁷⁷⁰

On 13 March 2015 Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of the Environment and Minister Responsible for Parks Canada announced CAD20 million in new investments to National Parks and National Historic Sites. These investments are part of the CAD2.8 billion to support infrastructure improvements to heritage, tourism, waterway and highway assets located within national historic sites, national parks, and national marine conservation areas across Canada.¹⁷⁷¹

During the compliance period Canada has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

¹⁷⁶⁷ Parque Eólico Geribatu Será Inaugurado na Sexta no RS, Portal Brasil 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/02/parque-eolico-geribatu-sera-inaugurado-na-sexta-27-no-rs>

¹⁷⁶⁸ Dilma Comemora Integração Continental em Inauguração de Parque Eólico no Uruguai, Portal Brasil 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/02/dilma-comemora-integracao-continental-em-inauguracao-de-parque-eolico-no-uruguai>

¹⁷⁶⁹ Interligação Energética com Uruguai Deve Começar a Operar até Julho, Portal Brasil 2 March 2015. Date of Access: 1 April 2015. <http://www.brasil.gov.br/infraestrutura/2015/03/interligacao-energetica-com-uruguai-deve-comecar-a-operar-ate-julho>

¹⁷⁷⁰ The New Building Canada Plan: The largest and longest federal infrastructure plan in Canadian history. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. <http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/nbcp-npcc-eng.html>

¹⁷⁷¹ Harper Government announces new investments to Parks Canada sites across New Brunswick. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cp-nr/release_e.asp?id=2215&andor1=nr

China: +1

China has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources.

On 26 November 2014, the National Development and Reform Commission announced that China approved construction of four railway lines worth CNY66.24 billion (USD10.79 billion) to boost growth by infrastructure investment. The new railway lines will run in northeastern Jilin Province, southwestern Chongqing, Shaanxi Province and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.¹⁷⁷²

On 4 December 2014, China Ministry of Finance launched 30 projects to solicit private capital in the form of a public-private partnership. These projects, worth a total of CNY180 billion (USD29.3 billion), include water and heating supply, sewer systems, garbage disposal, underground pipe networks, medical care, sports facilities and other urban infrastructure. Both domestic and foreign investors are welcome to participate in the construction and operation of these projects.¹⁷⁷³

On 16 February 2015, the central bank of China stated that a Silk Road Fund designed to finance China-proposed “Belt and Road” initiatives begun operation. The Silk Road Fund Co., Ltd was established on 29 December 2014 in Beijing, after President Xi Jinping announced the creation of the USD40billion. The company was jointly funded by China’s foreign exchange reserves, China Investment Corporation, the Export-Import Bank of China and China Development Bank.¹⁷⁷⁴ The fund will invest in infrastructure and resources, as well as industrial and financial cooperation.¹⁷⁷⁵

On 26 February 2015, the minister of industry of information technology, Miao Wei, said that China committed to increase internet infrastructure construction in 2015: “80 million homes will be hooked up to fiber optic connections and more than 600 000 base stations will be built nationwide to extend the 4G network so that it covers all counties and developed towns.” Deputy Secretary General of the Internet Society of China Network Shi Xiansheng said that improvements and cutting the price of internet access will stimulate new businesses and boost tertiary sectors, including e-commerce and Internet finance.¹⁷⁷⁶

On 5 March 2015, Premier Li Keqiang during the opening meeting of the third session of China’s 12th National People’s Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing stated in the government work report that China will invest more than CNY1.6 trillion (USD260 billion) in infrastructure, over CNY800 billion (USD130 billion) in railway construction and CNY800 billion (USD130 billion) in major water conservancy projects this year. Over 8,000 kilometres of railway track will be opened to

¹⁷⁷² China approves more railway projects, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 26 November 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2014/11/26/content_281475015673345.htm

¹⁷⁷³ China opens projects worth billions to private investors, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 4 December 2014. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2014/12/05/content_281475019529345.htm

¹⁷⁷⁴ China’s \$40 bln Silk Road Fund starts operation, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/02/16/content_281475056807589.htm

¹⁷⁷⁵ China pools strength on Belt and Road strategy, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 16 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/03/13/content_281475070545384.htm

¹⁷⁷⁶ China to improve Internet infrastructure, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 26 February 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015. http://english.gov.cn/news/top_news/2015/02/27/content_281475062454630.htm

traffic this year and construction on the 57 ongoing major water conservancy projects must be accelerated, adding that 27 more projects will start this year.¹⁷⁷⁷

On 18 March 2015, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told that China call on all countries to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). The China-proposed AIIB, with an expected initial subscribed capital of USD50 billion, will be an international financial institution to fund infrastructure projects in Asia. It is expected to be formally established by the end of 2015. Now already 31 countries applied to join as founding members. The bank will benefit developing Asian countries that lack infrastructure funds and will adopt the best practices of other multilateral development banks.¹⁷⁷⁸

During the compliance period China has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Svetlana Nikitina

France: 0

France has partially complied with the commitment on infrastructure. France has taken some actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources.

On 11 December 2014, Secretary of State for Transport, Sea and Fisheries presented the Seine-Nord Europe Canal project. The realization of this major project will begin in 2017 and require close partnership with local actors, as well as major financial support.¹⁷⁷⁹

During the compliance period France has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On 17 March 2015, Wolfgang Schäuble, German Finance Minister, announced that Germany, with France and Italy, would become a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.¹⁷⁸⁰ As it is widely known, “multilateral development banks play a critical role in attracting private infrastructure investment to developing countries by contributing their own funding, bringing

¹⁷⁷⁷ China Focus: Infrastructure investment to offset growth slowdown, the Ministry of Water Resources of the People’s Republic of China 5 March 2015. Date of Access: 21 April 2015.

http://www.mwr.gov.cn/english/Medianews/201503/t20150309_626966.html

¹⁷⁷⁸ China calls on countries interested in AIIB to join by March 31, the State Council of the People’s Republic of China 18 March 2015. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/ministries/2015/03/19/content_281475073943970.htm

¹⁷⁷⁹ Canal Seine Nord Europe : l’Etat et les acteurs territoriaux se réunissent. Date of Access: 22 May 2015.

<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/Canal-Seine-Nord-Europe-l-Etat-et-et.html>

¹⁷⁸⁰ 3 European Powers Say They Will Join China-Led Bank, The New York Times 17 March 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://nyti.ms/18WEHrs>.

financing partners into specific deals (through syndications or co-financing), and by using risk guarantees and other tools.”¹⁷⁸¹

Germany has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 21 November 2014, State Secretary at Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Rainer Bomba, and the State Secretary at the Ministry of Transport of Hessen, Mathias Samson, opened the reconstruction of the viaduct Marbach. The government invested EUR43 million in the project.¹⁷⁸²

On 24 November 2014, Parliamentary State Secretary at Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, Dorothee Bär, jointly with the Minister of Transport and Infrastructure of Baden-Württemberg, Winfried Hermann, introduced a four-lane construction of the federal highway 31 between Immenstaad and Friedrichshafen / Waggershafen. The government invested EUR100 million in the project.¹⁷⁸³ The aim is to increase road safety, reduce traffic, noise and air pollution in the region.

On 28 November 2014, the Bundestag approved the budget of Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure for 2015. It is the largest investment budget in the federation. Compared to 2014, total expenditures had increased by around EUR420 million.¹⁷⁸⁴

On 12 December 2014, the Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure accounted for EUR40 million for the reconstruction of the main railway station in Augsburg. Previously it had been included in the federal program for the Community Transport Financing Act (GVFG). With this program, the federal government is promoting the expansion of public transport in the states.¹⁷⁸⁵

On 12 December 2014, Enak Ferlemann, Parliamentary State Secretary at Ministry of Transport, jointly with Secretary of State at Ministry of Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport, Daniela Behrens, made ceremony for the construction of the northern bypass Nordhorn. The government invested EUR30 million.¹⁷⁸⁶

On 12 January 2015, Alexander Dobrindt, Federal Minister of Transport and Digital Infrastructure, announced a new service and financing agreement (LuFV II) to modernize the rail network. Previously the Budgetary and Transport Committee of the German Parliament had approved the agreement. The record sum of EUR28 billion was allotted to modernize rail infrastructure.¹⁷⁸⁷

¹⁷⁸¹ How To Stop Worrying And Love The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, The Washington Post 6 April 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/04/06/how-to-stop-worrying-and-love-the-asian-infrastructure-investment-bank/>.

¹⁷⁸² Bomba: Talbrücke Marbach An Der A 45 Wird Fit Für Die Zukunft Gemacht, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 21 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=147710>.

¹⁷⁸³ Bär: Bund Investiert 100 Millionen Euro In Den Neubau Der B 31 Bei Friedrichshafen, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=147824>.

¹⁷⁸⁴ Investitionen Auf Dem Weg Zum Rekordniveau, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 24 November 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=150554>.

¹⁷⁸⁵ Bahnhofsumbau Wird Aus Dem GVFG-Bundesprogramm Gefördert, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=150824>.

¹⁷⁸⁶ B 403/ B 213: Erster Spatenstich für die Nordumgehung Nordhorn, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 12 December 2014. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=150834>.

¹⁷⁸⁷ 28 Milliarden Euro Für Das Schienennetz -

During the compliance period Germany has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Sergei Titov

India: +1

India has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure.

At the Brisbane Summit, the individual growth strategy was defined for India. As for infrastructure, India pledged to set up public-private partnership (PPP) institute in order to finance and mainstream PPPs.¹⁷⁸⁸

India has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On the 18 February 2015 The Road Transport and Highway Ministry informed the private sector investors about the creation of the so called “hybrid PPP model,” which implies that 40% of the funds for building a new highway will be raised from the government; the rest will be paid by private developers. The Highway Ministry Secretary Vijay Chhibber indicated that the PPP model, which was used earlier and required 100% private financing failed as the slowdown appeared in the economy.¹⁷⁸⁹

On 8 January 2015, Arun K. Tripathi, Energy Director at the Ministry of New and Renewable, at the meeting with the officials of nationalized public sector and private sector banks, international financial institution and other government agencies invited the representatives of financial institutions to finance solar rooftop projects through Solar Entrepreneurship scheme.¹⁷⁹⁰

On 28 February 2015, in his Budget Speech in the Parliament, the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that the Tax “pay through” scheme will be introduced for alternative investment funds, according to which the tax will not be paid by the fund itself but by investors. This is said to be done to spur investment including infrastructure investment. The 3P model is used to build a new capital in Andhra Pradesh state. For this purpose an additional investment allowance of 15% and additional depreciation of 15% to new manufacturing units set up in notified areas are laid out in the budget.¹⁷⁹¹

India has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 28 February 2015, in his Budget Speech in the Parliament, the Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley said that the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (an infrastructure project to create “Smart Cities”) received USD193.11 million in the current year. He added that the Ahmedabad-Dholera investment

Dobrindt und Grube Unterzeichnen Neue LUFV, Bundesministerium für Verkehr und Digitale Infrastruktur 12 January 2015. Date of Access: 9 April 2015. <http://www.bmvi.de/goto?id=151652>.

¹⁷⁸⁸Comprehensive Growth Strategy: India. G20 Member Growth Strategies, Australian G20 Presidency 15-16 November 2014. Date of Access: 7 April 2015.

http://www.g20australia.org/sites/default/files/g20_resources/library/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_india_0.pdf.

¹⁷⁸⁹Highways ministry to attract investors with ‘hybrid PPP’ model, Hindustan Times 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/highways-ministry-to-attract-investors-with-hybrid-ppp-model/article1-1318285.aspx>.

¹⁷⁹⁰Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Power Division) Office Memorandum, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy Government of India 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://mnre.gov.in/file-manager/UserFiles/MoM-grid-connected-solar-rooftop-09022015.pdf>.

¹⁷⁹¹General Budget 2015-16, Highlights and Summary, Press Information Bureau, Government of India 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://pib.nic.in/budget2015/budgetdoc/gbEngRelease.pdf>.

region in Gujarat and the Shendra-Bidkin Industrial park near Aurangabad, in Maharashtra, are ready to commence the work on basic infrastructure.

In presenting the general budget Jaitley emphasized that this year there will be an increase in infrastructure investment by USD11.2 billion, including the support to the railways by USD3.85 million. The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund will be set up with an initial amount of USD 3.2 billion. It was also proposed to set up “plug-and game” infrastructure projects. The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund is planned to be set up this year; for this purpose USD 4 million will be allocated from the budget.¹⁷⁹²

During the compliance period India has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Anastasiia Matiukhina

Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On 23 January 2015, Indonesia’s Ministry of Finance announced its plans to spend USD1.63 billion to transform the state-owned financing company Sarana Multi Infrastruktur into an infrastructure bank. The new bank will help attract infrastructure investment from private sources and state-owned enterprises.¹⁷⁹³

On 20 January 2015, Indonesian government announced its plans to contribute IDR48 trillion (about USD3.8 billion) to increase the capital of several state enterprises. State-owned enterprises minister Rini Soemarno mentioned that this capital injection is aimed at expanding the businesses and making them support the government’s infrastructure plans.¹⁷⁹⁴

Indonesia has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 25 November 2014, Minister of National Development Planning Andrinof Chaniago presented the government’s five-year plan aimed at strengthening economic growth in the long term. The plan provides for USD450 billion of infrastructure investment from the national budget in 2015-2019.¹⁷⁹⁵

In 2015-2016, as reported by the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board, the government plans to implement 17 large infrastructure projects based on private-public partnerships.¹⁷⁹⁶

¹⁷⁹² General Budget 2015-16, Highlights and Summary, Press Information Bureau, Government of India 28 February 2015. Date of Access: 7 April 2015. <http://pib.nic.in/budget2015/budgetdoc/gbEngRelease.pdf>.

¹⁷⁹³ Update on Infrastructure Development in Indonesia under Joko Widodo, Indonesia Investments 23 January 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.indonesia-investments.com/business/business-columns/update-on-infrastructure-development-in-indonesia/item5247>.

¹⁷⁹⁴ Rp 48t stimulus to help state firms back govt’s infrastructure push, The Jakarta Post 20 January 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/01/20/rp-48t-stimulus-help-state-firms-back-govt-s-infrastructure-push.html>.

¹⁷⁹⁵ Propelling Indonesia’s Infrastructure Development, DBS Bank 26 November 2014. Access date: 17 April 2015. http://www.dbs.com/in/personal/aics/GenericArticle.page?dcrPath=templatedata/article/generic/data/en/GR/112014/141126_economics_propelling_indonesia_infrastructure_development.xml.

During the compliance period Indonesia has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Shelepov

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken some actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 30 January 2015, it was announced that Maurizio Lupi, Italy's Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, signed a decree towards the implementation of the "Sblocca Italia" law, allocating additional EUR100 million for infrastructure projects in the municipalities with less than 5,000 inhabitants. This action increased the investment in small communities' infrastructure in Italy up to EUR250 million.¹⁷⁹⁷

On 24 February 2015, Lupi and Alain Vidalies, the French Secretary of State for Transport, signed an agreement to begin the construction of the high-speed Lyon-Turin railway. Public Promoter Telt (Tunnel Euralpin Lyon Turin), created on the previous day owned 50% each by the Italian State Railways and France will supervise the construction and operation of the future line. The total cost of the cross-border section is EUR8.6 billion (at 2012 values), to be divided between France, Italy and the EU under the agreement of 30 January 2012.¹⁷⁹⁸

On 26 February 2015, Maurizio Lupi, the Italian Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, presented 71 infrastructure projects worth EUR6.822 billion to the European Commission, requesting EUR2.471 billion investment from the EU. The projects, covering railways, motorways, port infrastructure, waterways, etc., are to be completed by 2020.¹⁷⁹⁹

On 17 March 2015, it was announced that the Italian Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Maurizio Lupi signed a decree which allocated EUR100 million for new infrastructure projects in small communities. According to the decree the municipalities under 5,000 inhabitants are eligible for investments from 100 to 400,000 euros. This will allow to implement from 250 to 1000 new projects adding to the 293 already funded by the "6000 campanili" program, approved in September 2014.¹⁸⁰⁰

On 17 March 2015, the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Maurizio Lupi signed a decree allocating EUR50 million to for urgent hydrogeological actions to alleviate the consequences of

¹⁷⁹⁶ Infrastructure Projects and Special Economic Zones in Indonesia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia. Access date: 17 April 2015.

[http://www.kemlu.go.id/kuwaitcity/Documents/PPP%20Infrastructure%20projects%20and%20Special%20Economic%20Zones%20in%20Indonesia%20\(BKPM%202015\).pdf](http://www.kemlu.go.id/kuwaitcity/Documents/PPP%20Infrastructure%20projects%20and%20Special%20Economic%20Zones%20in%20Indonesia%20(BKPM%202015).pdf).

¹⁷⁹⁷ Programma 6000 Campanili, Lupi: altri 100 milioni ai piccoli comuni, 293 le opere finanziate, Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 30 January 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015.

<http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=3712>.

¹⁷⁹⁸ Promoter for Lyon-Turin HSR, Tunnelbuilder 24 February 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015.

<http://tunnelbuilder.com/News/Promoter-for-Lyon-Turin-HSR-2.aspx>.

¹⁷⁹⁹ Bandi europei TEN-T: Lupi presenta a Bruxelles 71 progetti infrastrutturali con richiesta di finanziamenti per 2 miliardi e 471 milioni di euro, Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 26 February 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=3764>.

¹⁸⁰⁰ 100 milioni di euro per nuove opere infrastrutturali nei piccoli comuni, Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 17 March 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=3782>.

natural disasters. Of the EUR50 million, EUR18 million are channelled to the southern regions and EUR4 million to the municipality of Cesenatico, devastated by the flood in February 2015.¹⁸⁰¹

On 10 April 2015, Italian government approved the 2015 Economic and Financial Document, with the Program of Strategic Infrastructure prepared by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport as an annex. The program designates three main areas: improving railway services, strengthening urban road networks to reduce traffic congestion, and improving the competitiveness of the port system, through construction of new infrastructure facilities. The program also contains a list of infrastructure projects proposed to the European Commission for joint implementation by 2020, amounting to EUR7.009 million.¹⁸⁰²

On 20 April 2015, Terminal 1 of the Malpensa airport in Milan opened after reconstruction, funded by the EUR30 million from the government. The new Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Graziano Delrio participating in the ceremony stated that the airport was one of the primary gateways to Italy.¹⁸⁰³

No facts of Italy's actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure have been registered during the monitoring period.

During the compliance period Italy has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure only from public sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from private sources.

In 2015, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Narita International Airport Company and private transportation companies will jointly work in the Liaison Council to improve the accessibility at Narita Airport, looking ahead to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympics Games as well.¹⁸⁰⁴

Japan has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources.

Japan is planning investment in infrastructure in Asia in close collaboration with public and private sectors.¹⁸⁰⁵ The initiative is estimated at USD800 billion per year. The Japan-led Asian Development Bank (ADB) estimates the region's infrastructure financing needs will exceed USD8 trillion in 2020.

¹⁸⁰¹ Disseto idrogeologico – Il ministro Lupi firma il decreto che ripartisce 50 milioni per interventi urgenti, Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport 17 March 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015.
<http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=3327>.

¹⁸⁰² Documento di Economia e Finanza 2015, Programma delle infrastrutture strategiche del Ministro delle infrastrutture e dei trasporti, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance. Date of access: 17 May 2015.
http://www.dt.tesoro.it/modules/documenti_it/analisi_programmazione/documenti_programmatici/Allegato_infrastrutture.pdf.

¹⁸⁰³ Malpensa, il Ministro inaugura il restyling, Italian Ministry of Economy and Finance 20 April 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.mit.gov.it/mit/site.php?p=cm&o=vd&id=3835>.

¹⁸⁰⁴ The Joint Efforts for Further Improving the Accessibility at Narita Airport. Date of Access: 22 April 2015.
<http://www.mlit.go.jp/common/001086567.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁵ Japan planning initiative to boost infrastructure investment in Asia. Date of Access: 5 May 2015.
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/05/04/national/politics-diplomacy/japan-planning-initiative-boost-quality-infrastructure-investment-asia/#.VVyB50hnXxo>

Japan will provide resources to promote innovative infrastructure technologies through “new cooperative framework” between the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the country’s foreign aid agency, and the ADB to strengthen public-private partnerships.¹⁸⁰⁶

During the compliance period Japan has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

Korea: +1

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources.

In accordance with the Work Plan 2015, the Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs plans to scale up and modernize the agricultural sector through information and communication technology and infrastructure modernization in main production areas.¹⁸⁰⁷

On 2 April 2015, the Honam High Speed Railway became operational. The new 183-kilometre railway section connects Seoul and Gwangju allowing to travel between these cities in 90 minutes. “The Honam High Speed Railway marks a milestone in the development of the regional economy, too, by boosting the ease with which social & cultural exchanges and cooperation can take place,” said Korean President Park Geun-hye at the opening ceremony.¹⁸⁰⁸

On 9 April 2015, the Korean government announced its decision to ease regulations for investors in the Saemangeum development project. The project is a state-funded land reclamation project which includes creating infrastructure, such as ports and roads. The government plans to ease employment regulations to match those imposed on foreign firms operating in Korea’s free economic zones, with an aim to encourage foreign direct investors to invest in the project.¹⁸⁰⁹

On 28 May 2015, the Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport announced the 2015 comprehensive housing plan for residential stabilization with intention to build 434,000 houses, including 88,000 public houses, by the end of the year. The plan is to provide residential support to 1.26 million households.¹⁸¹⁰

¹⁸⁰⁶ 都市交通分野の海外展開に向けた 最近の取組みについて. Date of Access: 22 April 2015. <http://www.mlit.go.jp/common/001068938.pdf>

¹⁸⁰⁷ Work Plan, Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://english.mafra.go.kr/eng/list.jsp?group_id=1177&menu_id=1177&link_menu_id=1188&division=H&board_kind=&board_skin_id=&parent_code=&depth=0&tab_yn=

MAFRA, Announcing Detailed Action Plans for Measures for Agriculture as Future Growth, Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs 20 January 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. http://english.mafra.go.kr/eng/list.jsp?id=29162&pageNo=2&NOW_YEAR=2015&group_id=1001&menu_id=1020&link_menu_id=1020&division=B&board_kind=G&board_skin_id=G1&parent_code=1001&link_url=&depth=1&code=&link_target_yn=&menu_introduction=&menu_name=&popup_yn=&reference=&tab_yn=N

¹⁸⁰⁸ High-speed rail contributes to balanced development: president, Korean Government 2 April 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=126653>.

¹⁸⁰⁹ Saemangeum eases regulations to attract investment, Korean government 9 April 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. <http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=126840>.

¹⁸¹⁰ MOLIT announces 2015 comprehensive housing plan for residential stabilization, South Korean Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport 28 May 2015. Date of Access: 3 June 2015. <http://goo.gl/BWRjj1>.

During the compliance period Korea has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Mexico: +1

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing long-term financing for infrastructure. It has mobilized the long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources.

On 2 December 2014, the first phase of one of the largest in Mexico gas pipe lines “Los Ramones” construction was accomplished in Nuevo León. “Los Ramones” is 116 kilometres long and is expected to increase by 50% Mexican import of natural gas for economic development of the country.¹⁸¹¹

On 13 December 2014, 10 new roads were opened in the Mexican states of San Luis Potosí, Durango, Sinaloa, Estado de México, Puebla, Veracruz, Jalisco, Quintana Roo, Guanajuato, Baja California Sur y Coahuila. The total investment in their construction was USD983 million.¹⁸¹²

On 17 February 2015, the Mexican Secretariat of Communications and Transportation announced an allocation of USD33 million for finalizing three infrastructure facilities in Baja California Sur, including bridge Caduaño reconstruction and rural road Santa Rita a Puerto Chale modernization. The project is aimed to strengthen connectivity in the south of state.¹⁸¹³

On 10 March 2015, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto inaugurated the expanded and modernized belt way in San Luis Potosí which “would increase San Luis Potosí competitiveness and transform it into an important hub.” In his speech he also emphasized that the structural reforms in Mexico were aimed at mobilizing investment for various sectors.¹⁸¹⁴

Mexico has mobilized the long-term financing for infrastructure from private sources.

Mexico’s comprehensive growth strategy adopted at the Brisbane G20 summit in November 2014¹⁸¹⁵ contains a commitment “to foster investment in infrastructure through the implementation of the Financial Reform and the National Infrastructure Program” by improvement of capital market regulations, encouraging of the private sector participation in infrastructure through the National Infrastructure Fund to promote public private partnerships.

For 2014-2015 the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) of Mexico announced tenders for 11 projects on natural gas transportation with total investment of about USD300 million. The projects under the construction within the Mexican Comprehensive Strategy and these announced projects

¹⁸¹¹ Gasoducto “Los Ramones” Fase I. 2 December 2014. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/gasoducto-los-ramones-fase-i/>.

¹⁸¹² Cumplido: 10 nuevas autopistas. 13 December 2014. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/cumplido-10-nuevas-autopistas/>.

¹⁸¹³ Obras de infraestructura aumentan la conectividad terrestre de Baja California Sur. 17 February 2015. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/obras-de-infraestructura-aumentan-la-conectividad-terrestre-de-baja-california-sur/>.

¹⁸¹⁴ Modernización del Anillo Periférico de San Luis Potosí. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/modernizacion-del-anillo-periferico-de-san-luis-potosi/>.

¹⁸¹⁵ Comprehensive Growth Strategy: Mexico. Date of assess: 23 February 2015. https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/g20_comprehensive_growth_strategy_mexico.pdf.

will increase the national gas pipeline system length by 54%.¹⁸¹⁶ With private sector engagement, CFE plans to construct six power plants using natural gas with total investment of approximately USD385 million and 4,600 megawatts capacity.¹⁸¹⁷

During the compliance period Mexico has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Elizaveta Safonkina

Russia: +1

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term public and private financing for infrastructure.

On 27 December 2014, the government of the Russian Federation issued a decree №2744-p approving the investment projects by the JSC Russian Railways, a state company, aimed at improving railroad infrastructure and linkages with sea ports in the Russian Far East, North-West and Azov-Black Sea regions.¹⁸¹⁸

On 27 March 2015, the government of the Russian Federation approved the decree to introduce the Agreement between Russia and China on natural gas shipments to State Duma for ratification. The agreement inter alia provides for the construction of a pipeline to transport natural gas into Chinese territory.¹⁸¹⁹

On 3 April 2015, following the meeting on the development of the Russian Far East, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a list of instructions to the government dealing with restoring the budget allocations that were earlier envisaged in the 2015 federal budget for the construction (reconstruction) of transportation infrastructure facilities: airports in Khabarovsk, Blagoveshchensk and Yakutsk and an air terminal in Magadan within the framework of the Federal Targeted Programme Developing Russia's Transport System (2010–2020).¹⁸²⁰ During the meeting the President and the ministers discussed the planned measures on priority development territories which provide for attraction of private, including foreign, investments to the region's development.¹⁸²¹ The government received instructions to urgently consider increasing funding from the federal budget of the investment projects planned on the territory of the Russian Far East and

¹⁸¹⁶ Plan de infraestructura impulsa incremento de gasoductos en 75%: CFE. Date of assess: 26 April 2015. <http://www.obrasweb.mx/construccion/2015/03/13/plan-de-infraestructura-impulsa-incremento-de-gasoductos-en-75-cfe>.

¹⁸¹⁷ Oportunidades de inversión para el sector energético. Date of assess: 5 April 2015. <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/oportunidades-de-inversion-para-el-sector-energetico/>.

¹⁸¹⁸ On the JSC Russian Railways investment projects, Russian Government 27 March 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/docs/16441/>.

¹⁸¹⁹ On introduction to the State Duma draft law on ratification of the Agreement between the governments of Russia and China on cooperation in natural gas shipment to PRC by the "Eastern route", Russian Government 27 March 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/media/files/CK1aOi11Evs.pdf>.

¹⁸²⁰ Instructions following meeting on development of Russian Far East. President of Russia 17 April 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/49275>.

¹⁸²¹ Meeting on developing the Russian Far East, President of Russia 3 April 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/49084>.

the priority development areas to be created in the region, as well as funding for the construction of energy infrastructure facilities and seaports.¹⁸²²

On 16 April 2015, the government approved the distribution of subsidies for 2015 on the implementation of the federal program “Sustainable development of rural territories in 2014-2017 and until 2020.” According to a draft decree, 4.5 billion rubles of federal budget funds will be spent in 2015 on improving living conditions of people in rural areas, and 4.33 billion rubles will be allocated towards construction of social and engineering infrastructure facilities.¹⁸²³

During the compliance period Russia has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakharov

Saudi Arabia: +1

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term public and private financing for infrastructure.

Saudi Arabia plans a USD100 billion investment until 2020 to upgrade and future-proof the Kingdom’s infrastructure, including two ports construction and operations, air aviation developments with the first planned private airport, major rail expansion, road design and supervision of new connections and expansions.¹⁸²⁴

During the compliance period Saudi Arabia has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Vitaly Nagornov

South Africa: 0

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 30 April 2015, South African President Jacob Zuma convened a meeting of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC). Participants discussed the progress of construction across the full public infrastructure project pipeline, organised through 18 major Strategic Integrated Projects. It was reported that more than 220,000 direct jobs were supported by the projects currently coordinated by the PICC, covering road-build, ports, rail lines, social infrastructure (clinics, hospitals, schools, colleges and universities), energy-plants, dams and pipelines, broadband rollouts and household connections (electricity, water, sanitation and communications).¹⁸²⁵

¹⁸²² Instructions following meeting on development of Russian Far East. President of Russia 17 April 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/49275>.

¹⁸²³ Materials to the Government’s meeting on 16 April 2015, Russian Government 16 April 2015. Date of access: 11 June 2015. <http://government.ru/announcements/17677/>.

¹⁸²⁴ Saudi Transtec 2015. Date of access: 17 May 2015. <http://www.sauditrantec.com>

¹⁸²⁵ President Zuma convenes the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission, 30 April 2015 <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/pebble.asp?relid=19617>

South Africa has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources. However, no actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from private sources have been registered during the compliance period. Thus it has been awarded a score of 0.

Analyst: Lyudmila Tarasenko

Turkey: +1

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term private financing for infrastructure.

On 11 December 2014, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan delivered a speech outlining the G20 Turkish presidency priorities. He particularly stressed the commitment of the Turkish government to address a substantial need for investments, especially for infrastructure through introducing concrete and ambitious investment strategies related both to public and private investment.¹⁸²⁶

On 28-29 April 2015, the Turkish Ministry of Health co-organized the PPP Healthcare Summit in Istanbul. One of the issues discussed during the event was understanding the public sector's role in mobilizing finance for infrastructure investment and designing relevant government policies.¹⁸²⁷

On 26 March 2015, the Turkish government's representatives informed on the plans to make the country a member of the China-led Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank, which was established by the Chinese government with the aim to attract financing for infrastructure in the Asian region.¹⁸²⁸

Turkey has taken actions to mobilize long-term public financing for infrastructure.

On 3 January 2015, ministry of health of Turkey informed on launching in 2015 new infrastructure reforms aimed at transformation of healthcare infrastructure (city hospitals, cancer research institutes, domestic production of drugs and vaccination, stem cell coordination centre, new clinics and a campaign to fight obesity).¹⁸²⁹

On 18 April 2015, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan attended the promotional event "51st Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey." Speaking at the event, the President mentioned: "We cannot say that we have a good infrastructure for bicycle riders, but I hope that we will rapidly improve the infrastructure for bicycle riders and enhance the love for cycling."¹⁸³⁰

On 28 November 2015, the Turkish government revealed its plans to invest EUR10 billion in developing railway transport. In particular, it plans to conduct network modernization works,

¹⁸²⁶ Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan's Speech at the G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies Meeting, G20 Turkey 2015 17 December 2014. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <https://g20.org/deputy-prime-minister-ali-babacans-speech-g20-finance-central-bank-deputies-meeting/#>.

¹⁸²⁷ PPP Healthcare Summit, Ministry of Health of Turkey 21 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.saglik.gov.tr/TR/dosya/1-96566/h/phsbrochure290315.pdf>.

¹⁸²⁸ Turkey plans to join China-led Asian infrastructure bank: Treasury, Daily News 26 March 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkey-plans-to-join-china-led-asian-infrastructure-bank-treasury.aspx?pageID=238&nID=80226&NewsCatID=346>.

¹⁸²⁹ Major changes to Turkey's health infrastructure in 2015, Daily Sabah Turkey 3 January 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.dailysabah.com/nation/2015/01/03/major-changes-to-turkeys-health-infrastructure-in-2015>.

¹⁸³⁰ President Erdoğan Attends Promotional Event "the 51st Presidential Cycling Tour of Turkey", Presidency of the Republic of Turkey 18 April 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.tccb.gov.tr/news/397/92991/president-erdogan-attends-promotional-event-the-51st-presidential-cycling-tour-of-turkey.html>.

construct 10,000 new kilometres of high-speed rail lines and 4,000 kilometres of conventional lines.¹⁸³¹

During the compliance period Turkey has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Nadezhda Sporysheva

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken actions to mobilize long-term public and private financing for infrastructure.

On 2 December 2014, the UK government published the National Infrastructure Plan 2014. According to this document, infrastructure facilities worth GBP277 were under construction at that moment. The infrastructure development strategy up to 2020 and beyond provides for GBP15 billion of investment in the Strategic Road Network as part of a new Road Investment Strategy which will include undertaking over 100 major schemes, a GBP2.3 billion program of flood investment investing in over 1,400 schemes to protect at least 300,000 homes, a GBP38 billion Network Rail delivery program, and continued support for digital infrastructure. Overall, around GBP327 billion of investment across the public and private sectors are planned by 2020-21, with GBP67.5 billion coming from public sources, and GBP45 billion from a mix of public and private sources. Private investment are supported through the ongoing UK Guarantees Scheme and other financing vehicles.¹⁸³²

On 12 February 2015, the UK Infrastructure Act came into force. It turned the Highways Agency into a government-owned company, Highways England, with stable long-term funding, and reduced a number of administrative barriers in infrastructure sector.¹⁸³³

On 18 March 2015, the UK government announced the digital communications infrastructure strategy. The document set the goals for telecommunications infrastructure sector development and introduced a number of initiatives to attract appropriate private investment.¹⁸³⁴

During the compliance period the UK has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both public and private sources. Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. It has taken steps to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources.

¹⁸³¹ Turkey to make major investment in rail, International Transport Journal 28 November 2015. Date of Access: 28 April 2015. <http://www.transportjournal.com/de/home/news/artikeldetail/turkey-to-make-major-investment-in-rail-infrastructure.html>.

¹⁸³² National Infrastructure Plan 2014, UK Government 2 December 2014. Access date: 17 April 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-plan-2014>.

¹⁸³³ Infrastructure Act will get Britain building, UK Government 12 February 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/infrastructure-act-will-get-britain-building>.

¹⁸³⁴ The digital communications infrastructure strategy, UK Government 18 March 2015. Access date: 17 April 2015. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-digital-communications-infrastructure-strategy/the-digital-communications-infrastructure-strategy>.

On 16 January 2015, the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center of the US Environmental Protection Agency was created to support the Build America Investment Initiative. The new centre will explore new financial instruments, create opportunities for public-private partnerships and support communities to develop sustainable financial sources for water infrastructure projects.¹⁸³⁵

On 20 February 2015, US Department of Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx completed a four-day bus tour through five states to call Congress to act on the long-term transportation bill. During the tour he visited universities, manufacturers and different infrastructure facilities.¹⁸³⁶

On 30 March 2015, Anthony Foxx sent to Congress a six-year USD478 billion transportation reauthorization proposal or Grow America Act aimed at modernizing the US infrastructure. This act will increase investment in all forms of surface transportation by 45% and facilitate partnerships between state, local and private investors.¹⁸³⁷

In the previous six years, 32 short-term funding extensions have failed to adequately modernize the aging U.S. infrastructure.¹⁸³⁸

The United States has taken actions to promote long-term funding for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Tatiana Lanshina

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on infrastructure. The EU has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from private sources.

On 13 January 2015, the European Commission adopted the legislative proposal for the European Fund for Strategic Investments, which will be established in partnership with the European Investment Bank. The fund will mobilize at least USD353 billion in private and public investment across the European Union to support strategic investments, including broadband and energy infrastructure. A European Investment Advisory Hub was also set to help with project preparation and development across the European Union.¹⁸³⁹

On 18 February 2015, the European Commission launched the project to unlock funding for Europe's businesses and to stimulate growth in the EU's members with the creation of the Capital

¹⁸³⁵ Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 16 January 2015. Date of Access: 30 April. <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/waterfinancecenter.cfm>.

¹⁸³⁶ Secretary Foxx Calls on Congress to Invest in America's Infrastructure, U.S. Department of Transportation 20 February 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/secretary-foxx-calls-congress-invest-america%E2%80%99s-infrastructure>.

¹⁸³⁷ Secretary Foxx Sends Six-Year Transportation Bill to Congress, U.S. Department of Transportation 30 March 2015. Date of Access: 27 April 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/secretary-foxx-sends-six-year-transportation-bill-congress>.

¹⁸³⁸ U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx Unveils President's Bold \$94.7 Billion Investment in America's Infrastructure Future, U.S. Department of Transportation 2 February 2015. Date of Access: 20 February 2015. <http://www.dot.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-anthony-foxx-unveils-president%E2%80%99s-bold-947-billion>.

¹⁸³⁹ Delivery of €315 billion Investment Plan on track: Commission presents law for the European Fund for Strategic Investments, European Commission 13 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3222_en.htm

Markets Union. The Capital Markets Union will help to break down the barriers for cross-border investments in the EU and improve access to finance for all infrastructure projects across Europe.¹⁸⁴⁰

On 10 March 2015, the European Parliament supported the new investment framework European Long-Term Investment Funds designed to attract investors who want to invest into long-term projects relating to energy, transport but also social housing, schools and hospitals.¹⁸⁴¹

On 25 March 2015, the European Commission committed to review the current telecoms and media rules to make them fit for new challenges to encourage private investment in this infrastructure.¹⁸⁴²

The EU has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from public sources.

On 26 November 2014, the European Commission announced an investment plan to incentivize economic growth and employment in Europe. The plan includes the creation of a new European Fund for Strategic Investments, guaranteed with public money, to mobilize at least USD394 billion of additional investment over the next three years (2015-2017) with the focus on infrastructure, especially broadband and energy networks and transport infrastructure in industrial centres.

On 15 January 2015, the European Commission published nine studies which identified transport infrastructure development needs which represent approximately USD812 billion of financial investment until 2030.¹⁸⁴³

On 9 February 2015, representatives of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia and European Commission Vice-President for Energy Union Maroš Šefčovič and Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete held the first meeting of the Central East South Europe Gas Connectivity High Level Group in Sofia to establish a regional priority infrastructure roadmap and advance its implementation in order to develop missing infrastructure and improve security of gas supplies.¹⁸⁴⁴

On 13 February 2015, the European Commission adopted 40 new programmes under the European Cohesion Policy to support economic development and social cohesion across the European Union. These programs include those ones realized through the Cohesion Fund which was set up to provide a financial contribution to projects in the fields of environment and trans-European networks in the area of transport infrastructure.¹⁸⁴⁵

¹⁸⁴⁰ Unlocking Funding for Europe's Growth - European Commission consults on Capital Markets Union, European Commission 18 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4433_en.htm

¹⁸⁴¹ Commissioner Hill welcomes agreement reached in European Parliament on Long Term Investment Funds, European Commission 10 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4572_en.htm

¹⁸⁴² Digital Single Market Strategy: European Commission agrees areas for action, European Commission 25 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4653_en.htm

¹⁸⁴³ Commission identifies the infrastructure priorities and investment needs for the Trans-European Transport Network until 2030, European Commission 15 January 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-3341_en.htm

¹⁸⁴⁴ Joint Press Statement by Ministers and Representatives of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia and the European Commission, European Commission 9 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_STATEMENT-15-4281_en.htm

¹⁸⁴⁵ Cohesion Policy: Commission commits more than 66 billion euro to promote economic development across Europe, European Commission 13 February 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015. http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-4425_en.htm

On 26 March 2015, the European Commission Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Bulc met with Transport Ministers from Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Austria, to discuss interconnections in Central Europe. They also discussed the possibilities of using the European Fund for Strategic Investment for regional transport initiatives and signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the development of transportation infrastructure.¹⁸⁴⁶

On 15 April 2015, Commissioner for Regional Policy Corina Cretu visited Romania to discuss the adoption of the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme, an investment package of nearly USD10 billion for transport and energy projects in the country. Romania will receive nearly USD24 billion from European Cohesion Policy funds for 2014-2020.¹⁸⁴⁷

During the compliance period European Union has taken actions to mobilize long-term financing for infrastructure from both private and public sources. Thus, it has been awarded a score of +1.

Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov

¹⁸⁴⁶ Vice-President Šefčovič and Commissioner Bulc meet with five Transport Ministers to further develop transport infrastructure in Central Europe, European Commission 25 March 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-15-4692_en.htm

¹⁸⁴⁷ Commissioner Corina Cretu in Romania, European Commission 15 April 2015. Date of Access: 18 April 2015.

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEX-15-4784_en.htm