



## 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final Compliance Report

Prepared by

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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 Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA), and formerly with the International Organizations Research Institute at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (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, including those that leaders can change to improve compliance and the impact of this important informal international institution. Previous reports are available at the G20 Information Centre at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis>.

The G20 Research Group has been working with Marina Larionova's team at RANEPA and previously at HSE since initiating 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 the contents of this report lies exclusively with the authors and analysts of the G20 Research Group.

Professor John Kirton  
Director, G20 Research Group

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## Introduction and Summary

The G20 2019 Osaka Final Compliance Report is prepared by the G20 Research Group based at the University of Toronto and its Russian partner at the Center for International Institutions Research of the Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (RANEPA). The report analyzes compliance by G20 members with the 19 priority commitments carefully selected from the total of 128 commitments made at the Osaka Summit hosted by Japan on 28–29 June 2019. The previously published interim report covered actions taken by the G20 members between 30 June 2019 to 10 May 2020. This final report covers the full period between the 2019 and the 2020 summits and is released on the eve of the Riyadh Summit to be held on 21-22 November 2020.

## Methodology and Scoring System

This report draws on the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group, which has been monitoring G7/8 compliance since 1996. The International Organisations Research Institute at the Higher School of Economics (IORI HSE) joined this multi-year project in 2005. 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 per cent and +1 equals 100 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

A compliance score of -1 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 RANEPA continue to monitor developments, progress made by members can be recorded in future compliance reports.

The Compliance Coding Manual that describes the methodology in detail is available on the G20 Information Centre website at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/index.html#method>.

## Commitment Breakdown

The G20 made a total of 128 commitments at the Osaka Summit.<sup>2</sup> These commitments, as identified by the G20 Research Group and RANEPA, are drawn from the official Osaka Leaders' Declaration.

## 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, following the methodology developed by the G7 Research Group. 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> A commitment is defined as a discrete, specific, publicly expressed, collectively agreed statement of intent; a promise by summit members that they will undertake future action to move toward, meet or adjust to an identified target. More details are contained in the Reference Manual for Summit Commitment and Compliance Coding).

secondary criteria of performance measurability and ability to comply to some degree within a year, as well as the tertiary criterion of significance as identified by scientific teams and relevant stakeholders in the host country.

For this report, the research teams selected 19 commitments for analysis (see Table 1).

### **Final Compliance Scores**

This assessment is based on relevant, publicly available information relating to actions taken from 30 June 2019 to 10 October 2020. The final compliance scores by commitment are contained in Table 2. Country rankings are listed in Table 3 and commitment rankings are listed in Table 4.

For the full compliance period, including all 19 priority commitments, G20 members achieved average compliance of +0.57 (79%), up from the interim score of +0.38 (69%). The interim scores by member are available in Table 5.

### **Final Compliance by Member**

For final compliance with the Osaka Summit's priority commitments, the European Union had the highest compliance at +1.00 (100%), followed by Germany at +0.88 (94%), Canada at +0.79 (89%) and Australia and the United Kingdom both at +0.74 (87%). Indonesia had the lowest score at +0.32 (66%). The difference between the highest and lowest G20 member compliance scores is 0.68. For more information about compliance by member, see Table 3.

### **Final Compliance by Commitment**

One commitment, on public health preparedness, ranked first at +1.00 (100%). It was followed by the labour and employment commitment on opportunities for youth at +0.90 (95%) and four commitments with compliance of +0.85 (93%): a climate change commitment on financing for sustainable development, a development commitment on investing in human capital, an infrastructure commitment on quality infrastructure investment and a trade commitment on reform of the World Trade Organization. The macroeconomics commitment on exchange rates ranked fourth at +0.82 (91%). Lowest compliance was on the trade commitment on open markets at -0.12 (44%). For more information on scoring by commitment, see Table 4.

**Table 1: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments Selected for Compliance Monitoring**

1	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth	“We reaffirm our commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks, by stepping up our dialogue and actions to enhance confidence.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
2	Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates	“We also reaffirm the exchange rate commitments made by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in March 2018.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
3	Trade: Open Markets	“[We strive to] ... keep our markets open.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
4	Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization	“We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
5	Infrastructure: Quality Infrastructure Investment	“We endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as our common strategic direction and high aspiration.” (G20 2019 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
6	Digital Economy: Frameworks	“We will cooperate to encourage the interoperability of different frameworks [for data free flow with trust]” (G20 Leaders’ Osaka Declaration)
7	International Taxation: Digitalization	“We will redouble our efforts for a consensus-based solution [on addressing the tax challenges arising from digitalization] with a final report by 2020.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
8	Crime and Corruption: Cyber Resilience	“We also continue to step up efforts to enhance cyber resilience.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
9	Terrorism: Internet Security	“For us all to reap the rewards of digitalisation, we are committed to realising an open, free and secure internet.” (G20 2019 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
10	Labour and Employment: Opportunities for Youth	“We will also continue to promote employment opportunities for and employability of the young population.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
11	Gender: Education and Training	“[We commit to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training, including...] improved access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
12	Gender: Labour Market	“We will also address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.” (G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration)
13	Development: Energy	“[We support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards the timely implementation of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in such areas as] ... energy ... [using all means of implementation, such as the mobilization of private sector resources and capacity building assistance.]” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
14	Development: Investment in Human Capital	“We reaffirm our commitment to invest in human capital... [as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.]” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
15	Health: Ageing Populations	“We will promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)

16	Health: Public Health Preparedness	“We are committed to improving public health preparedness and response including strengthening our own core capacities” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
17	Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	“In this regard, we are determined to swiftly take appropriate national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
18	Climate Change: Financing for Sustainable Development	“To this end, we strive to foster inclusive finance for sustainable development, including public and private financing mobilization and alignment between them.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)
19	Climate Change: Innovation	“[To this end, we strive to foster] ... innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.” (G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration)



**Table 2: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final 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	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+0.75	88%		
2	Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates	+1	+1	+1	+1	-1	n/a	n/a	+1	+1	n/a	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.82	91%	
3	Trade: Open Markets	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	n/a	-1	-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	+1	-0.12	44%	
4	Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+0.85	93%	
5	Infrastructure: Quality Infrastructure Investment	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%	
6	Digital Economy: Frameworks	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.70	85%	
7	International Taxation: Digitalization	0	-1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	-1	0	+1	0	0	0	+1	-1	+1	+1	+0.30	65%	
8	Crime and Corruption: Cyber Resilience	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.80	90%
9	Terrorism: Internet Security	0	0	0	+1	0	0	0	0	-1	0	0	+1	-1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	+1	0.00	50%	
10	Labour and Employment: Opportunities for Youth	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.90	95%
11	Gender: Education and Training	0	+1	0	0	-1	0	+1	+1	-1	+1	0	+1	0	0	+1	0	0	0	0	+1	+0.25	63%	
12	Gender: Labour Market	0	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.45	73%
13	Development: Energy	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.75	88%
14	Development: Investment in Human Capital	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%
15	Health: Ageing Populations	+1	+1	-1	+1	+1	+1	0	0	-1	-1	+1	+1	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	0	+1	+0.10	55%	
16	Health: Public Health Preparedness	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1.00	100%
17	Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	0	+1	-1	0	+1	0	+1	-1	-1	0	0	+1	0	-1	-1	0	0	0	-1	+1	0.05	48%	
18	Climate Change: Financing for Sustainable Development	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.85	93%	
19	Climate Change: Innovation	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	+1	0	+1	0	+1	0	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1	+0.70	85%	
	Average	+0.53 76%	+0.74 87%	+0.47 74%	+0.79 89%	+0.42 71%	+0.71 85%	+0.88 94%	+0.58 79%	+0.32 66%	+0.65 82%	+0.58 79%	+0.42 71%	+0.53 76%	+0.47 74%	+0.42 71%	+0.37 68%	+0.42 71%	+0.74 87%	+0.42 71%	+1.00 100%	+0.57	79%	

n/a = not applicable

**Table 3: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final Compliance by Member**

Rank	Member	Average	
1	European Union	+1.00	100%
2	Germany	+0.88	94%
3	Canada	+0.79	89%
4	Australia	+0.74	87%
	United Kingdom		
6	France	+0.71	85%
7	Italy	+0.65	82%
8	India	+0.58	79%
	Japan		
10	Argentina	+0.53	76%
	Mexico		
12	Brazil	+0.47	74%
	Russia		
14	China	+0.42	71%
	Korea		
	Saudi Arabia		
	Turkey		
	United States		
19	South Africa	+0.37	68%
20	Indonesia	+0.32	66%

**Table 4: 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Final Compliance by Commitment**

Rank	Commitment	Average	
1	Health: Public Health Preparedness	+1.00	100%
2	Labour and Employment: Opportunities for Youth	+0.90	95%
3	Climate Change: Financing for Sustainable Development	+0.85	93%
	Development: Investment in Human Capital		
	Infrastructure: Quality Infrastructure Investment		
	Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization		
7	Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates	+0.82	91%
8	Crime and Corruption: Cyber Resilience	+0.80	90%
9	Development: Energy	+0.75	88%
	Gender: Labour Market		
	Macroeconomics: Inclusive Growth		
12	Climate Change: Innovation	+0.70	85%
	Digital Economy: Frameworks		
14	International Taxation: Digitalization	+0.30	65%
15	Gender: Education and Training	+0.25	63%
16	Health: Ageing Populations	+0.10	55%
17	Terrorism: Internet Security	0	50%
18	Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics	-0.05	48%
19	Trade: Open Markets	-0.12	44%

**Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2019**

Member	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Final	
	Washington 2008		London 2009		Pittsburgh 2009		Toronto 2010		Seoul 2010		Cannes 2011		Los Cabos 2012		St. Petersburg 2013	
Argentina	0	50%	-0.60	20%	-0.13	44%	0	50%	-0.08	46%	0	50%	+0.31	66%	+0.06	53%
Australia	n/a	–	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.56	78%	+0.85	93%	+0.67	84%	+0.94	97%	+0.63	81%
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%
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%
China	0	50%	-0.40	30%	+0.13	57%	+0.38	69%	+0.42	71%	+0.53	77%	+0.38	69%	+0.19	59%
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%
Germany	+1.00	100%	+0.80	90%	+0.63	82%	+0.56	78%	+0.54	77%	+0.67	84%	+0.56	78%	+0.75	88%
India	0	50%	-0.40	30%	-0.38	31%	-0.29	36%	+0.42	71%	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%	+0.63	81%
Indonesia	n/a	–	-0.40	30%	-0.63	19%	-0.13	44%	+0.36	68%	+0.14	57%	+0.47	74%	+0.50	75%
Italy	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.13	57%	+0.56	78%	+0.77	89%	+0.80	90%	+0.19	60%	+0.44	72%
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%
Korea	n/a	–	0	50%	+0.75	88%	+0.56	78%	+0.46	73%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.38	69%
Mexico	+1.00	100%	0	50%	+0.25	63%	-0.14	43%	+0.58	79%	+0.67	84%	+0.69	85%	+0.38	69%
Russia	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+0.38	69%	+0.13	57%	+0.59	80%	+0.60	80%	+0.63	82%	+0.44	72%
Saudi Arabia	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.13	44%	-0.13	44%	+0.08	54%	+0.21	61%	+0.50	75%	+0.06	53%
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%
Turkey	n/a	–	+0.20	60%	-0.25	38%	-0.14	43%	+0.17	59%	+0.20	60%	+0.25	63%	+0.25	63%
United Kingdom	+1.00	100%	+1.00	100%	+0.50	75%	+0.78	89%	+0.77	89%	+0.87	94%	+0.81	91%	+0.75	88%
United States	0	50%	+0.40	70%	+1.00	100%	+0.33	67%	+0.38	69%	+0.53	77%	+0.81	91%	+0.69	84%
European Union	+1.00	100%	+0.60	80%	+0.38	69%	+0.57	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.85	93%	+0.75	88%	+0.63	81%
Average	+0.67	83%	+0.23	62%	+0.24	62%	+0.28	64%	+0.50	75%	+0.54	77%	+0.57	79%	+0.44	72%

n/a = not available

**Table 5: G20 Compliance by Member, 2008–2019, continued**

Member	Final		Final		Final		Final		Final		Interim	
	Brisbane 2014		Antalya 2015		Hangzhou 2016		Hamburg 2017		Buenos Aires 2018		Osaka 2019	
Argentina	+0.06	53%	+0.53	76%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%	+0.65	83%
Australia	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.79	89%	+0.71	85%	+0.80	90%	+0.88	94%
Brazil	+0.12	56%	+0.53	76%	+0.58	79%	+0.82	91%	+0.70	85%	-0.18	41%
Canada	+0.71	85%	+0.65	82%	+0.84	92%	+0.94	97%	+0.75	88%	+0.70	85%
China	+0.59	79%	+0.59	79%	+0.74	87%	+0.76	88%	+0.75	88%	+0.55	78%
France	+0.63	81%	+0.71	85%	+0.63	82%	+0.94	97%	+1.00	100%	+0.30	65%
Germany	+0.69	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.79	89%	+0.88	94%	+0.65	83%	-0.10	45%
India	+0.59	79%	+0.65	82%	+0.63	82%	+0.82	91%	+0.75	88%	+0.30	65%
Indonesia	+0.12	56%	+0.18	59%	+0.53	76%	+0.94	97%	+0.45	73%	-0.10	45%
Italy	+0.13	56%	+0.71	85%	+0.32	66%	+0.76	88%	+0.35	68%	+0.75	88%
Japan	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%	+0.68	84%	+0.76	88%	+0.55	78%	+0.15	58%
Korea	+0.65	82%	+0.53	76%	+0.68	84%	+0.71	85%	+0.60	80%	+0.30	65%
Mexico	+0.47	74%	+0.53	76%	+0.53	76%	+0.65	82%	+0.60	80%	+0.50	75%
Russia	+0.47	74%	+0.47	74%	+0.68	84%	+0.65	82%	+0.35	68%	+0.80	90%
Saudi Arabia	-0.24	38%	+0.35	68%	+0.42	71%	+0.59	79%	+0.45	73%	-0.05	48%
South Africa	-0.12	44%	+0.24	62%	+0.37	68%	+0.65	82%	+0.45	73%	+0.80	90%
Turkey	0	50%	+0.41	71%	+0.37	68%	+0.29	65%	+0.05	53%	-0.40	30%
United Kingdom	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.47	74%	+0.94	97%	+0.25	63%	+0.80	90%
United States	+0.76	88%	+0.71	85%	+0.42	71%	+0.35	68%	+0.75	88%	+0.60	80%
European Union	+0.75	88%	+0.81	91%	+0.84	92%	0.94	97%	+0.37	68%	+0.38	69%
Average	+0.42	71%	+0.55	77%	+0.60	80%	0.75	87%	+0.57	78%	+0.65	83%

## **Conclusions**

Many of the commitments assessed in this report have timelines that extend beyond the next 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 between the Osaka Summit and the Riyadh Summit. This report has been produced as an invitation for others to provide additional or more complete information on compliance during the period under study. Feedback should be sent to [g20@utoronto.ca](mailto: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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 US, the Queen's Speech in the UK and the Speech from the Throne in Canada. Merely repeating a G20 commitment in another forum does not count fully as compliant behaviour.

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.

As individual members can often take different actions to comply with the same commitment, no standardized cross-national evaluative criterion produced by external parties can be universally applied. The interpretive guidelines attempt to provide an clear, consistent, equitable method for assessing compliance.

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: Inclusive Growth

“We reaffirm our commitment to use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks, by stepping up our dialogue and actions to enhance confidence.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

### Background

The G20 leaders first addressed the issue of inclusive economic growth at the 2014 Brisbane Summit, calling for two per cent of economic growth to be directed towards supporting “development and inclusive growth” and helping “to reduce inequality and poverty” by 2018.<sup>3</sup> Despite not reaching that goal by 2018, inclusive growth has continued to be a prominent topic of deliberation at the G20 summits, having been mentioned at every summit since the Brisbane Summit.<sup>4</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders agreed that inclusive growth requires “the use of all policy tools and strong engagement with all stakeholders” and that inclusive growth should be “inclusive, job-rich” and benefit “all segments of our societies.”<sup>5</sup> The theme of using “all policy tools” to work towards bolstering inclusive growth has remained a theme since the Antalya Summit.

<sup>3</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Brisbane, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

<sup>4</sup> Europe admits G20 economies will miss extra growth target, Reuters (Valletta) 8 April 2017. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-growth-europe-idUSKBN17A0GA>

<sup>5</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders further committed to advancing “sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth,” outlining in the Hangzhou consensus policies and actions that members should be taking to promote inclusive growth.<sup>6</sup> The actions and policies outlined followed four main themes: vision, integration, openness and inclusiveness.<sup>7</sup> These four themes lay the foundation of what inclusive growth would look like moving forward, including sustainability, cooperation, fairness and removing inequalities in the international economic system.<sup>8</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to inclusive growth, stating that “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth ... remains our highest priority.”<sup>9</sup> Once again, leaders committed to using “all policy tools” in advancing inclusive growth.<sup>10</sup> The leaders also focused on international investment, digitalization, empowering women and equal access to financial and economic systems as important components of promoting inclusive growth.<sup>11</sup> The G20 Africa Partnership was also discussed as a vehicle to advance and promote inclusive growth amongst African economies.<sup>12</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders continued the theme of prior summits by committing to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth.”<sup>13</sup> One of the summit’s priority areas, infrastructure, was also promoted as a significant factor in advancing inclusive growth.<sup>14</sup> In the Buenos Aires Action Plan, G20 leaders outlined the primary areas to focus and improve on in promoting inclusive growth, and also offered previously implemented measures in areas such as tax, education, social security reform, financial regulation and labour that had a positive impact on advancing inclusive growth.<sup>15</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The central theme of using “all policy tools” to achieve inclusive growth continued at the 2019 Osaka Summit, where G20 leaders reaffirmed their committed to “use all policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risks, by stepping up our dialogue and actions to enhance confidence.”<sup>16</sup> G20 members identified that “carefully calibrated macroeconomic and structural policies tailored to country-specific circumstances” are

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<sup>6</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>7</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>8</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>9</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>10</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>11</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>12</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>13</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>14</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>15</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>16</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

imperative in order to achieve this commitment.<sup>17</sup> In addition, central banks were included as a vital component in promoting inclusive growth and safeguarding against “downside risks,” and leaders called upon central banks to promote “flexible and growth-friendly” fiscal policies to maintain stability and sustainability on the path to inclusive growth.<sup>18</sup>

“Strong” growth can be understood as booms experienced in various industry sectors of a given country, increase in employment and in gross domestic product, thus culminating in an increase in productivity.<sup>19</sup> “Sustainable” growth is understood as economic development that accounts for the needs of future generations, thus preserving the environment while meeting human needs.<sup>20</sup> Related, “balanced” growth refers to a diverse economy (i.e., growth is seen in multiple sectors, rather than focused on one industry) that employs characteristics of sustainability and inclusivity in income.<sup>21</sup>

For the purposes of this assessment, the World Bank’s description of inclusive growth is used as a metric in determining whether an action is included or excluded in the report. The World Bank lays out nine key characteristics of inclusive growth that can be summarized as follows:

- Inclusive growth is economic growth that is vital to poverty reduction;
- Inclusive growth is sustained, “broad-based” growth with a focus on “structural transformation for economic diversification”;
- Inclusive growth includes a large portion of the labour force, including equal access and opportunity to “markets, resources, and unbiased regulatory environment”;
- Inclusive growth focuses on “both the pace and pattern of growth,” and strategies need to be country-specific;
- Inclusive growth prioritizes productive employment over income redistribution, focusing on productivity growth in addition to employment growth;
- Inclusive growth focuses on both individuals and companies in terms of analysis;
- Inclusive growth aligns with the “absolute definition of pro-poor growth”;
- Inclusive growth does not look at specific targets such as employment generation or income distribution, as these are simply “potential outcomes, not specific goals”;
- Inclusive growth is generally driven by free market growth sources, with the government playing a “facilitating role.”<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>18</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>.

<sup>19</sup> Economic Growth, Investopedia (New York City) 16 April 2019. Access Date: 13 April 2019. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/economicgrowth.asp>.

<sup>20</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> Balanced and unbalanced economic growth, Economics Help (Oxford) 14 March 2018. Access Date: 13 April 2019. <https://www.economicshelp.org/blog/7666/uk-economy/balanced-economy/>

<sup>22</sup> What is Inclusive Growth?, World Bank (Geneva) 10 February 2009. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTDEBTDEPT/Resources/468980-1218567884549/WhatIsInclusiveGrowth20081230.pdf>



The G20 leaders added the theme of downside risk at the 2019 Osaka Summit. For the purposes of this assessment, downside risk is defined as the maximum loss an investment or security could incur should market conditions change.<sup>23</sup> Thus, scoring for this commitment can be divided into two components.

The first component of this assessment follows similar themes of prior summits, with members taking actions to address strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth both on the domestic and international levels. On the domestic level, members can address income inequality, poverty levels and marginalized populations through actions such as ensuring equal access to labour markets, reducing barriers to market entry, investing in education and vocational systems to bolster the acquisition of skills, providing a fair tax and benefit system for disadvantaged and less fortunate families, and promoting equal opportunities for youth and women. On the international level, members can advocate for a fair international economic system that ensures developing countries have a fair chance to advance and grow their economies, forge development partnerships, and bolster international regulatory institutions that promote inclusive growth.

The second component of this assessment covers downside risk, a factor that can also be addressed through actions at both the domestic and the international level. At the domestic level, members can ensure that their macroeconomic policies promote stability, flexibility and growth, ensure price stability, and enhance confidence in the national economy. At the international level, members can take actions that promote the stability of the international economic system, such as rejecting and condemning unfair trade practices, enhancing cooperation, taking preventive and reactionary measures to counter global economic downturn, and ensuring that members' domestic economic systems do not negatively affect the stability of the global economy.

To achieve a score of full compliance, G20 members must use all policy tools that to achieve both strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risk. As per the commitment text, the policy tools they can employ include stepping up dialogue (i.e., collaborating and consulting with international organizations such as the World Bank or with other G20 members) or by taking actions to enhance confidence (i.e., investing in education or vocational training programs or enhancing trade relations with other countries). National or international actions count for a G20 member's full compliance in promoting inclusive growth and safeguarding against downside risk. Members that take action or step up dialogue to achieve either of the commitment's components but not both will receive a score of partial compliance. Members that do not take action or step up dialogue to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth or to safeguard against downside risk will receive a score of no compliance.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has NOT used policy tools (by stepping up dialogue or actions) to achieve inclusive growth or safeguard against downside risks.
0	G20 member has used policy tools (by stepping up dialogue or actions) to achieve either inclusive growth OR safeguard against downside risks.
+1	G20 member has used policy tools (by stepping up dialogue or actions) to achieve inclusive growth AND safeguard against downside risks.

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<sup>23</sup> Downside Risk Definition, Investopedia (New York City) 12 April 2019. Access Date: 9 March 2020. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/downsiderisk.asp>

## Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 July 2019, the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM) of the Banco Central de la República Argentina (BCRA) decided to provide further information on the development of the monetary/exchange scheme for July.<sup>24</sup> The COPOM has decided to set a minimum rate for the interest rate on liquidity bills at 58 per cent in July in order to ensure that those changes do not entail the loosening of current monetary conditions.<sup>25</sup> In other words, liquidity will be absorbed as required to prevent the benchmark interest rate from falling below that level.<sup>26</sup> The fall in the minimum rate goes hand in hand with the drop in the inflation rate of the past few months which is expected to continue in July based on the Market Expectations Survey.<sup>27</sup>

On 19 July 2019, the COPOM decided to make a two-month assessment of the compliance with the monetary base target for July and August with an average target remained unchanged at ARS1,343 billion.<sup>28</sup> As a preventive measure, in July banks were complying with minimum reserve requirements for a higher amount than that required for the July/August period, which suggests that they would fulfil requirements for a lower amount in August.<sup>29</sup> In order to avoid excessive contraction in July and excessive expansion in August, the COPOM decided to determine, during July and August, the compliance of the monetary base target based on the two-month average.<sup>30</sup>

On 8 August 2019, the Board of Directors of the BCRA issued Communication A6753, requiring financial institutions to inform, at their branches, the rates on time deposits sorted out by the channel through which they are made online and at a teller window.<sup>31</sup> This requirement seeks to encourage competition in the financial system and enhance users' access to information.<sup>32</sup> This regulation is associated with a resolution made available by means of Communication A6419 dated 29 December 2017 on "Information Released through Electronic Channels to Protect the Environment," which lists the information that financial institutions must make available to the public at their branches.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-010719-i.asp>

<sup>25</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-010719-i.asp>

<sup>26</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-010719-i.asp>

<sup>27</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-010719-i.asp>

<sup>28</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-220719-i.asp>

<sup>29</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-220719-i.asp>

<sup>30</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Pol%C3%ADtica-Monetaria-220719-i.asp>

<sup>31</sup> A New Regulation aimed to Promote Transparency, 8 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/obligatoriedad-informar-tasa-web-i.asp>

<sup>32</sup> A New Regulation aimed to Promote Transparency, 8 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/obligatoriedad-informar-tasa-web-i.asp>

<sup>33</sup> A New Regulation aimed to Promote Transparency, 8 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/obligatoriedad-informar-tasa-web-i.asp>

On 1 September 2019, the BCRA adopted Communication A6770 to regulate the inflow and outflow of foreign exchange in the market in order to maintain exchange rate stability and protect saver.<sup>34</sup> Under this communication, natural and legal persons may continue withdrawing dollars from their bank account, the regular development of foreign trade is not affected, and there is no affection to travelling abroad.<sup>35</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the COPOM decided to adjust the parameters of its monetary scheme to the recent developments in Argentine economy.<sup>36</sup> In view of the increased country risk, little chance to refinance treasury bills, and a significant peso depreciation, the Ministry of Economy and the BCRA have adopted measures to preserve Argentina's monetary and financial stability.<sup>37</sup> These measures seek to help the economy to go through the present state of uncertainty in the best possible way.<sup>38</sup>

On 27 October 2019, the Board of the BCRA made changes to Communication A6770, which has regulated inflows and outflows in the foreign exchange market since 1 September.<sup>39</sup> These changes, which were established in Communication A6815, seek to keep exchange rate stability and protect international reserves in a context of uncertainty.<sup>40</sup> This communication is temporary; natural and legal persons may continue withdrawing dollars from their bank accounts; the regular development of foreign trade is not affected, and there is no restriction to purchase US dollars for travelling.<sup>41</sup>

On 30 October 2019, COPOM decided to adjust the floor of the interest rate on liquidity bills (LELIQs) and established the monetary base target for November.<sup>42</sup> Tougher foreign exchange controls are likely to increase the demand for assets in pesos.<sup>43</sup> However, in the current scenario of high uncertainty, it is bitterly critical to ensure positive real returns for depositors.<sup>44</sup> Accordingly, the COPOM reduced the floor of the interest rate on LELIQs to 63 per cent for November.<sup>45</sup> This implies a five percentage point fall against October, which is in line with market forecasts about a slowdown in the inflation rate.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Measures to Safeguard Exchange Rate Stability and Savers, 1 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/01-09-19-medidas-para-proteger-estabilidad-cambiararia-y-ahorristas-i.asp>

<sup>35</sup> Measures to Safeguard Exchange Rate Stability and Savers, 1 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/01-09-19-medidas-para-proteger-estabilidad-cambiararia-y-ahorristas-i.asp>

<sup>36</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-180919-i.asp>

<sup>37</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-180919-i.asp>

<sup>38</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-180919-i.asp>

<sup>39</sup> Adjustments to Safeguard Exchange Rate Stability, 27 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Adecuaciones-para-proteger-la-estabilidad-cambiararia-i.asp>

<sup>40</sup> Adjustments to Safeguard Exchange Rate Stability, 27 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Adecuaciones-para-proteger-la-estabilidad-cambiararia-i.asp>

<sup>41</sup> Adjustments to Safeguard Exchange Rate Stability, 27 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Adecuaciones-para-proteger-la-estabilidad-cambiararia-i.asp>

<sup>42</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-301019-i.asp>

<sup>43</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-301019-i.asp>

<sup>44</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-301019-i.asp>

<sup>45</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-301019-i.asp>

<sup>46</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 30 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-301019-i.asp>

On 22 November 2019, the BCRA published the first biannual Report on Financial Inclusion (IIF, in Spanish), which seeks to disclose the development of financial inclusion in Argentina and the measures adopted in this regard, and to discuss the progress made in financial inclusion as monitored by means of specific metrics.<sup>47</sup> On the basis of international experience, this report analyzes the development of the indicators that assess access to, use and quality of, financial services in the December 2015-March 2019 period.<sup>48</sup> The IIF is the result of efforts undertaken at institutional level to contribute to the assessment, analysis and exposition of the challenges of financial inclusion in Argentina.<sup>49</sup> In turn, the BCRA has introduced some changes in its regulatory framework with a view to fostering new points of access to bank accounts; streamlining the process for opening bank accounts; promoting greater use of electronic means of payment; and encouraging transactions through electronic channels.<sup>50</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the COPOM set the monetary base target for the coming period and kept the current floor unchanged for the interest rate on LELIQs in line with the current economic schedule.<sup>51</sup> The BCRA has made net purchases of foreign currency for USD2.427 billion since October 28, involving a rise of ARS79 billion in the average monetary base target for November, which stood at ARS1,662 billion.<sup>52</sup> The BCRA sterilized part of this rise, as a result of which November's average was ARS94 billion (5.7 per cent) below the target, amounting to ARS1,568 billion.<sup>53</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the BCRA authorized a new financing tool in pesos through which banks could finance exports of small- and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>54</sup> In a context where domestic loans in dollars for the exporting sector have declined by USD5.5 billion (35 per cent) in the past four months, the BCRA aims at providing the financial system with a tool so that exporters may recover financing capacity.<sup>55</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the BCRA reduced the floor of the interest rate on LELIQs by five points, from 63 per cent to 58 per cent.<sup>56</sup> The BCRA Board considers that the benchmark interest rate is inappropriate and potentially inconsistent with the projected nominal evolution of key economic variables for a number of reasons: the current macroeconomic situation during this period of

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<sup>47</sup> The BCRA Publishes the First Report on Financial Inclusion, 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Inf-inclusion-financiera-201901-i.asp>

<sup>48</sup> The BCRA Publishes the First Report on Financial Inclusion, 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Inf-inclusion-financiera-201901-i.asp>

<sup>49</sup> The BCRA Publishes the First Report on Financial Inclusion, 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Inf-inclusion-financiera-201901-i.asp>

<sup>50</sup> The BCRA Publishes the First Report on Financial Inclusion, 22 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Inf-inclusion-financiera-201901-i.asp>

<sup>51</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 29 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-291119-i.asp>

<sup>52</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 29 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-291119-i.asp>

<sup>53</sup> Decisions Taken by the Monetary Policy Council (COPOM), 29 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Decisiones-del-Comite-de-Politica-Monetaria-291119-i.asp>

<sup>54</sup> New tool to boost exporting SMEs business, 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/herramienta-para-impulsar-pymes-exportadoras-i.asp>

<sup>55</sup> New tool to boost exporting SMEs business, 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/herramienta-para-impulsar-pymes-exportadoras-i.asp>

<sup>56</sup> The BCRA Sets the Floor of the Interest Rate on LELIQs at 58%, 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/El-BCRA-fijo-limite-inferior-LELIQ-i.asp>

transition; the changes that the bill brought before the National Congress will entail; a call for a social pact; and the search for a sustainable sovereign debt scheme.<sup>57</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the BCRA agreed with the Ministry of Territorial Development and Environment of Argentina to extend until end of January 2020 the freeze on mortgage loans adjusted for the unit of purchasing power (unidad de valor adquisitivo, or UVA), a benefit for debtors derived from offsetting rises in installments.<sup>58</sup> This measure was ordered in the context of the economic crisis Argentina is undergoing.<sup>59</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the BCRA endorsed the measure announced by the Executive Branch to help companies meet their investment and working capital needs, including the payment of the increased salary to private-sector employees.<sup>60</sup> To this end, minimum reserve requirements will be eased for financial institutions granting loans to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) at a 40 per cent annual rate, which stands substantially below the current rates prevailing in the market.<sup>61</sup> This measure will enable institutions to have greater funds available in pesos and so channel up to 60 per cent of their loans to SMEs and at better financial conditions.<sup>62</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the BCRA issued regulations for the operation of payment accounts provided by payment service providers (PSP).<sup>63</sup> Such regulations give the system further transparency and increase the protection of financial users.<sup>64</sup> Argentina has, thus, taken a significant step to regulate PSPs in order to be in line with other countries in the region and in Europe that already have a regulatory framework for PSPs.<sup>65</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the BCRA offered LELIQs for 7- and 14-day periods as from January 21 with the aim of improving monetary policy interest rate transmission and favoring the control on liquidity conditions.<sup>66</sup> In turn, the coefficient for calculating the borrowing rate on overnight transactions will remain unchanged next week but will be lowered to 0.5 as from January 27.<sup>67</sup> This will stimulate the extension of maturity periods of the BCRA's remunerated liabilities.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>57</sup> The BCRA Sets the Floor of the Interest Rate on LELIQs at 58%, 19 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/El-BCRA-fijo-limite-inferior-LELIQ-i.asp>

<sup>58</sup> Benefit for UVA-adjusted mortgage loans to be extended 30 days, 30 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/beneficios-hipotecario-UVA-30-dias-i.asp>

<sup>59</sup> Benefit for UVA-adjusted mortgage loans to be extended 30 days, 30 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/beneficios-hipotecario-UVA-30-dias-i.asp>

<sup>60</sup> Easing of Minimum Reserve Requirements for Institutions Financing SMEs, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/noticia-03-01-20-i.asp>

<sup>61</sup> Easing of Minimum Reserve Requirements for Institutions Financing SMEs, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/noticia-03-01-20-i.asp>

<sup>62</sup> Easing of Minimum Reserve Requirements for Institutions Financing SMEs, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/noticia-03-01-20-i.asp>

<sup>63</sup> Further Protection for Financial Services Users, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/proteccion-usuarios-financieros-090120-i.asp>

<sup>64</sup> Further Protection for Financial Services Users, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/proteccion-usuarios-financieros-090120-i.asp>

<sup>65</sup> Further Protection for Financial Services Users, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/proteccion-usuarios-financieros-090120-i.asp>

<sup>66</sup> Changes on LELIQ Auctions, 17 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/Modificaciones-subastas-LELIQ-i.asp>

<sup>67</sup> Changes on LELIQ Auctions, 17 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/Modificaciones-subastas-LELIQ-i.asp>

<sup>68</sup> Changes on LELIQ Auctions, 17 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<http://www.bkra.gov.ar/Noticias/Modificaciones-subastas-LELIQ-i.asp>

On 23 January 2020, the BCRA established the relaunch of the universal free account, with the aim of favoring financial inclusion for the most vulnerable sectors while promoting greater banking access and facilitating access to means of payment, in line with the actions undertaken under the National Plan called “Argentina against Hunger.”<sup>69</sup> With this relaunch, the BCRA seeks to boost financial inclusion, moving towards full banking throughout the country.<sup>70</sup>

On 28 January 2020, the BCRA agreed with the Ministry of Territorial Development and Environment of Argentina to implement an offsetting mechanism to mitigate the rises in UVA-adjusted mortgage loan installments that debtors should face in February. Starting in February and for 12 months, the government will implement an installment convergence mechanism for UVA-adjusted mortgage loans, in a shared effort between financial institutions and debtors. This mechanism avoids the 26 per cent leap in the installment expected as of February establishing, instead, a 12-month convergence period. To ensure this convergence process and in line with the shared effort initiative established in the Social Solidarity and Productive Reactivation Act, financial institutions will contribute a total of ARS1,411 million during the applicable period.<sup>71</sup>

On 30 January 2020, the Board of the BCRA reduced the floor of the interest rate on LELIQs by two points, from 50 per cent to 48 per cent. The decision was adopted in view of the recessive conditions in which the economy has been performing and seeks to define an interest rate path compatible with economic recovery. The Board of the BCRA holds that interest rates should allow the monetary market to reach an equilibrium, thus contributing to optimize saving and financing in pesos.<sup>72</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the Board of the BCRA ordered financial institutions to reinforce the security measures in all their branches. All in all, these measures seek to re-establish and improve security standards for bank employees and financial users in answer to the unfortunate incident that took place in Isidro Casanova neighbourhood. This resolution was adopted within the framework of the Standing Committee for Bank Security and re-established on 4 February. In this scenario, the BCRA assessed the need of adopting regulatory changes immediately. In turn, more comprehensive measures have been analyzed in order to reinforce bank security regulations.<sup>73</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the BCRA issued a regulation to continue supporting micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) against the backdrop of the economics and financial crisis sustained by the productive sector as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. This regulation promoted credit to MSMEs at a maximum annual fixed rate of 24 per cent for working capital.<sup>74</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Board of the BCRA determined that financial institutions must open accounts for the payment of social security benefits at the request of ANSES paying agents in each jurisdiction. The Law on Financial Institutions established that banks must pay social security

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<sup>69</sup> Relaunch of the Universal Free Account, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.  
[http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Cuenta-Gratuita-Universal\\_i.asp](http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Cuenta-Gratuita-Universal_i.asp)

<sup>70</sup> Relaunch of the Universal Free Account, 23 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.  
[http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Cuenta-Gratuita-Universal\\_i.asp](http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Cuenta-Gratuita-Universal_i.asp)

<sup>71</sup> The Government Announces the Implementation of Facilities to Mitigate the Increase in UVA-Adjusted Mortgage Loan Installments. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Deudores-hipotecarios-uva-l.asp>

<sup>72</sup> The BCRA Set a New Reduction on the Monetary Policy Rate. Access Date: 21 March 2020.  
<http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/BCRA-avanzo-con-una-nueva-baja-tasa-pol%C3%ADtica-monetaria-i.asp>

<sup>73</sup> BCRA to Reestablish Security Measures at Banks. Access Date: 21 March 2020.  
<http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/seguridad-bancaria-sucursales-i.asp>

<sup>74</sup> Credit to MSMEs for Wages : New Incentives. Access Date: 17 July 2020.  
<http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/Coronavirus-BCRA-creditos-mipymes-i.asp>

benefits at the request of the National Executive Branch. This way, ANSES had the power to decide upon the banks and branches where beneficiaries will collect their allowances.<sup>75</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the Board of BCRA updated monetary policy guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, using available policy tools without accessing the international credit market.<sup>76</sup> The new guidelines include “redoubl[ing] its efforts to develop savings and investment instruments that allow Argentine citizens to earn positive returns not only in terms of the evolution of inflation, but also on the evolution of the exchange rate ... conduct open market transactions in order to promote greater liquidity, depth and transparency in sovereign debt markets ... the daily depreciation rate will gradually adapt to the needs of the current situation in order to avoid unwanted effects on competitiveness, domestic prices, assets and liabilities evolution as well as income distribution ... have macroprudential regulations compatible with the dynamization of capital flows oriented to the real economy ... [and] launched a new set of credit instruments.”<sup>77</sup>

Argentina has taken actions to both promote inclusive growth, as well as to safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zhenyu Xu*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 12 December 2019, Minister for Employment, Skills, Small and Family Business Michaelia Cash announced that it will be partnering with nine organisations that will pilot industry-led employment pathways to help young people into work.<sup>78</sup> Minister Cash said that the AUD10 million Youth Jobs PaTH industry pilots will equip young people with the training and experience they need to walk directly into jobs where there is demand for more workers.<sup>79</sup>

On 17 December 2019, Minister Cash announced that remote communities across Australia will receive specialised language, literacy, numeracy and digital literacy (LLND) skills training as part of a three-year pilot program.<sup>80</sup> The government has called for expressions of interest from Indigenous service providers to work with remote communities to co-design and deliver adult LLND skills training that is uniquely tailored, flexible and locally relevant to each community.<sup>81</sup>

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<sup>75</sup> The BCRA Increases the Number of Branches to Pay Social Security Beneficiaries. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<http://www.bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/coronavirus-bcra-ampliacion-lugares-cobro-beneficios-sociales-i.asp>

<sup>76</sup> Updated Monetary Policy Guidelines, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <http://bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/actualizacion-lineamientos-politica-monetaria-i.asp>

<sup>77</sup> Updated Monetary Policy Guidelines, Central Bank of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <http://bcra.gov.ar/Noticias/actualizacion-lineamientos-politica-monetaria-i.asp>

<sup>78</sup> Industry Pilots Announced for Youth Jobs PaTH: Ministers' Media Centre, Australian Government 12 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ministers.employment.gov.au/cash/industry-pilots-announced-youth-jobs-path>

<sup>79</sup> Industry Pilots Announced for Youth Jobs PaTH: Ministers' Media Centre, Australian Government 12 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ministers.employment.gov.au/cash/industry-pilots-announced-youth-jobs-path>

<sup>80</sup> Pilot Program to Develop Tailored Training in Remote Communities, Ministers' Media Centre, Australian Government 17 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ministers.employment.gov.au/cash/pilot-program-develop-tailored-training-remote-communities>

<sup>81</sup> Pilot Program to Develop Tailored Training in Remote Communities, Ministers' Media Centre, Australian Government 17 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ministers.employment.gov.au/cash/pilot-program-develop-tailored-training-remote-communities>

On 23 January 2020, Education and Training Minister Sue Ellery commenced the AUD3 million pilot program to support current Aboriginal staff at the Department of Education to become school teachers and a partnership with Curtin University to offer a bachelor of education where 33 current staff are first participants of the program.<sup>82</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the Reserve Bank of Australia announced that interest rates would be kept unchanged since lowering rates to 0.75 per cent in October as part of efforts to extend a record 29-year run without a recession.<sup>83</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the Australian government announced that it will overhaul English language courses for humanitarian refugees to improve the jobless rate and settle more new arrivals in regional areas. Population Minister Alan Tudge said the government will trial a reformed program by 1 July.<sup>84</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the government of Western Australia (WA) introduced a new NDIS Job Matching Service to ensure skilled people are connected to the fastest growing sector in the state as part of the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme' (NDIS).<sup>85</sup> Jobseekers interested in working in the disability sector will be connected with quality vocational education and training (VET) options.<sup>86</sup> Following graduation, the job matching service will connect jobseekers to NDIS service providers.<sup>87</sup> Service will be available from 1 July 2020.<sup>88</sup>

On 27 February 2020, Innovation and ICT Minister Dave Kelly today announced five WA organizations have received grants of up to AUD100,000 each, with a focus on job creation and increasing diversity and inclusion.<sup>89</sup> Regional and women entrepreneurs and investors are winners in

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<sup>82</sup> New Program to Support Aboriginal Staff to Become Teachers, Government of Western Australia — Media Statements 23 January 2020. Access Date: February 8, 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/01/New-program-to-support-Aboriginal-staff-to-become-teachers.aspx>

<sup>83</sup> Australia's Central Bank Keeps Interest Rates on Hold, The Business Times. The Business Times 4 February 2020. Access Date: February 8, 2020. <https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/government-economy/australias-central-bank-keeps-interest-rates-on-hold>

<sup>84</sup> Govt to Overhaul Lacklustre Humanitarian Refugee English Skills, news.com.au — Australia's #1 news site. SKY 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February, 2020. <https://www.news.com.au/national/politics/govt-to-overhaul-lacklustre-humanitarian-refugee-english-skills/video/8605c74bb1be03b24f02ada596d4c766>

<sup>85</sup> New Service Connects Employers and Jobseekers in the Disability Sector, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 17 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/New-service-connects-employers-and-jobseekers-in-the-disability-sector.aspx>

<sup>86</sup> New Service Connects Employers and Jobseekers in the Disability Sector, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 17 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/New-service-connects-employers-and-jobseekers-in-the-disability-sector.aspx>

<sup>87</sup> New Service Connects Employers and Jobseekers in the Disability Sector, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 17 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March, 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/New-service-connects-employers-and-jobseekers-in-the-disability-sector.aspx>

<sup>88</sup> New Service Connects Employers and Jobseekers in the Disability Sector, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 17 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March, 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/New-service-connects-employers-and-jobseekers-in-the-disability-sector.aspx>

<sup>89</sup> Regional and Women Entrepreneurs and Investors Get Boost from Latest X-TEND WA Grants, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 27 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/Regional-and-women-entrepreneurs-and-investors-get-boost-from-latest-X-TEND-WA-grants.aspx>



Round 2 of X-TEND WA grants that help innovative WA businesses get investor-ready and investors take early-stage investment opportunities.<sup>90</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the WA government announced that it has built on the first year of its market-led proposals (MLP) policy, by implementing seven key enhancements based on market evidence and feedback.<sup>91</sup> Launched in April 2019, the MLP policy was established to unlock unsolicited proposals from the private sector that offer the State Government innovative solutions and opportunities.<sup>92</sup> On 17 March 2020, Youth Minister Dave Kelly today announced four youth engagement projects will share in more than AUD35,000 funding provided through the Youth Engagement Grant Program.<sup>93</sup> The Youth Engagement Grant Program funds projects that develop the knowledge, confidence and skills young people need to be actively involved in community life and to respond to issues impacting on their lives.<sup>94</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the WA government has introduced precautionary legislation to ensure government spending on key services and infrastructure can continue in the event the state budget is delayed due to COVID-19.<sup>95</sup> The appropriation will provide for approximately six months' financial supply for the 2020-21 financial year.<sup>96</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the WA government has unveiled an AUD 1 billion economic and health relief package to support WA businesses, households and community groups, and to boost the response by health and frontline services to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>97</sup>

On 7 May 2020, the WA government has today announced a new lending facility to support local governments and universities impacted by reduced revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>98</sup> The

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<sup>90</sup> Regional and Women Entrepreneurs and Investors Get Boost from Latest X-TEND WA Grants, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 27 February 2020. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/Regional-and-women-entrepreneurs-and-investors-get-boost-from-latest-X-TEND-WA-grants.aspx>

<sup>91</sup> Government Builds on First Year of Innovative Policy, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Government-builds-on-first-year-of-innovative-policy.aspx>

<sup>92</sup> Government Builds on First Year of Innovative Policy, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website 16 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Government-builds-on-first-year-of-innovative-policy.aspx>

<sup>93</sup> Young People to Benefit from More than \$35,000 in Grants, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Young-people-to-benefit-from-more-than-35000-dollars-in-grants.aspx>

<sup>94</sup> Young People to Benefit from More than \$35,000 in Grants, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/Young-people-to-benefit-from-more-than-35000-dollars-in-grants.aspx>

<sup>95</sup> New laws to protect the Budget from COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/New-laws-to-protect-the-Budget-from-COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>96</sup> New laws to protect the Budget from COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/New-laws-to-protect-the-Budget-from-COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>97</sup> \$1 billion COVID-19 economic and health relief package unveiled, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. [https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/\\$1-billion-COVID-19-economic-and-health-relief-package-unveiled-.aspx](https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/03/$1-billion-COVID-19-economic-and-health-relief-package-unveiled-.aspx)

<sup>98</sup> \$100m short-term lending facility to support local governments and universities through COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/100-million-dollar-short-term-lending-facility-to-support-local-governments-and-universities-through-COVID-19.aspx>

new lending facility adds to the government's AUD1.8 billion of stimulus and relief package for businesses and households.<sup>99</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the WA government has launched a multimillion-dollar recovery package to support small tourism operators around the state to adapt and refocus their businesses in the COVID-19 landscape.<sup>100</sup> The AUD4.4 million initiative includes two funding programs — with an initial AUD10.4 million in one-off cash grants for up to 1,600 individual small businesses around the state.<sup>101</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the WA government announced that it is implementing procurement changes for goods and services contracts to give WA businesses a boost during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>102</sup> The changes, to take effect from 2 June 2020, will make it easier for government agencies to award and extend goods and services contracts with local businesses.<sup>103</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the federal government announced two special fellowships to Catherine Lovelock and Maureen Dollard, who will work to promote and inspire greater female participation in research.<sup>104</sup>

On 10 August 2020, the WA government announced free recovery program offered to WA small businesses to assist with impacts of COVID-19, pivot program will offer a range of online support mechanisms to promote business innovation.<sup>105</sup> The state's WA Recovery Plan delivering AUD5.5 billion in stimulus and support measures to assist the state to emerge from COVID-19.<sup>106</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the Commonwealth government and the government of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) launched the ACT JobTrainer Agreement. School leavers and job seekers in the ACT will now benefit from a training funding boost as part of the government's AUD1 billion

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<sup>99</sup> \$100m short-term lending facility to support local governments and universities through COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 31 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/100-million-dollar-short-term-lending-facility-to-support-local-governments-and-universities-through-COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>100</sup> \$14.4 million package to support tourism industry and jobs, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 13 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/14-point-4-million-dollar-package-to-support-tourism-industry-and-jobs.aspx>

<sup>101</sup> \$14.4 million package to support tourism industry and jobs, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 13 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/14-point-4-million-dollar-package-to-support-tourism-industry-and-jobs.aspx>

<sup>102</sup> Procurement changes to help boost local businesses during COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 27 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Procurement-changes-to-help-boost-local-businesses-during-COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>103</sup> Procurement changes to help boost local businesses during COVID-19, Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, 27 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/05/Procurement-changes-to-help-boost-local-businesses-during-COVID-19.aspx>

<sup>104</sup> Inspiring More Female Researchers, Ministers' Media Centre 6 July 2020, Access Date: 15 July 2020. <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/tehan/inspiring-more-female-researchers>

<sup>105</sup> Department of the Premier and Cabinet. "PIVOT Program to Support Small Businesses in COVID-19 Recovery." Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/08/PIVOT-program-to-support-small-businesses-in-COVID-19-recovery.aspx>

<sup>106</sup> Department of the Premier and Cabinet. "PIVOT Program to Support Small Businesses in COVID-19 Recovery." Government of Western Australia - Media Statements Website, <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/08/PIVOT-program-to-support-small-businesses-in-COVID-19-recovery.aspx>

JobTrainer Fund.<sup>107</sup> This agreement will provide up to 340,700 additional free or low-fee training places to help Australians upskill and reskill in areas of demand.<sup>108</sup>

On 29 September 2020, Australia announced an investment of almost AUD800 million to support businesses' access and growth through digital technologies, removing outdated regulatory barriers.<sup>109</sup> The JobMaker Digital Business Plan will provide the backing for businesses to continue the digital push, expand opportunities, grow and create more jobs.<sup>110</sup>

On 4 October 2020, Australia announced a new AUD1.2 billion Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements wage subsidy of 50 per cent to support businesses and training organizations to accept new apprentices and trainees.<sup>111</sup> This will apply to any organization or businesses that accepts an Australian Apprentice on or after 5 October 2020, to a maximum of AUD7,000 per quarter.<sup>112</sup> This scheme aims to support 100,000 new apprentices.<sup>113</sup>

On 9 October 2020, Australia announced an upcoming tax cut for 11 million Australians, as part of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan for Australia to rebuild the economy.<sup>114</sup> The low-income tax offset and top threshold of the 19 per cent and 32.5 per cent tax brackets will all increase.<sup>115</sup> There will also be additional targeted support for low-and-middle-income Australians. All these measures are effective from 1 July 2020.<sup>116</sup> Businesses will also be eligible for tax relief; with immediate deduction of the full cost of eligible depreciable assets, temporarily able to offset tax losses against previous profits on which tax was paid, and allow businesses with aggregated annual turnover between AUD10 million and AUD50 million access up to 10 small business tax concessions.<sup>117</sup>

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<sup>107</sup> Skills Boost for Students and Job Seekers in ACT, Ministers' Media Centre 8 September 2020, Access Date: 11 September 2020 <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-boost-students-and-job-seekers-act>

<sup>108</sup> Skills Boost for Students and Job Seekers in ACT, Ministers' Media Centre 8 September 2020, Access Date: 11 September 2020 <https://ministers.dese.gov.au/cash/skills-boost-students-and-job-seekers-act>

<sup>109</sup> Digital Business Plan to Drive Australia's Economic Recovery, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/digital-business-plan-drive-australias-economic-recovery>

<sup>110</sup> Digital Business Plan to Drive Australia's Economic Recovery, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/digital-business-plan-drive-australias-economic-recovery>

<sup>111</sup> Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 4 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.employment.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

<sup>112</sup> Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 4 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.employment.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

<sup>113</sup> Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements, Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 4 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.employment.gov.au/boosting-apprenticeship-commencements>

<sup>114</sup> Tax Relief to Back Hard-Working Australians and Create More Jobs Passes the Parliament, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tax-relief-back-hard-working-australians-and-create-more-jobs-passes-parliament>

<sup>115</sup> Tax Relief to Back Hard-Working Australians and Create More Jobs Passes the Parliament, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tax-relief-back-hard-working-australians-and-create-more-jobs-passes-parliament>

<sup>116</sup> Tax Relief to Back Hard-Working Australians and Create More Jobs Passes the Parliament, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tax-relief-back-hard-working-australians-and-create-more-jobs-passes-parliament>

<sup>117</sup> Tax Relief to Back Hard-Working Australians and Create More Jobs Passes the Parliament, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/tax-relief-back-hard-working-australians-and-create-more-jobs-passes-parliament>

Australia has taken steps towards promoting inclusive growth and towards safeguarding against downside risks; however, they have been limited to only domestic level.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Shubdeep Randhawa*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 July 2019, the Monetary Policy Committee (Copom) of the Central Bank of Brazil unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 6.00 per cent. This was aiming to help follow the pace of Brazilian economic recovery and to eliminate the risk of market inflation.<sup>118</sup>

On 18 September 2019, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 5.50 per cent, in its 225th meeting. This was aiming to help follow the sustainable pace of Brazilian economic recovery and to eliminate the risk of market inflation.<sup>119</sup>

On 30 October 2019, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 5.00 per cent, in its 226th meeting. This was aiming to help follow the pace of Brazilian economic recovery and to eliminate the risk of market inflation.<sup>120</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 4.50 per cent, in its 227th meeting. This was aiming to help follow the sustainable pace of Brazilian economic recovery and to eliminate the risk of market inflation.<sup>121</sup>

On 5 February 2020, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 4.25 per cent, in its 228th meeting. This was aiming to help follow the sustainable pace of Brazilian economic recovery and to eliminate the risk of market inflation.<sup>122</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 3.75 per cent, in its 229th meeting. This was aiming to prevent the further economic downturn under the coronavirus pandemic and to protect the economy.<sup>123</sup>

On 6 May 2020, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 3.00 per cent, in its 230th meeting. This was aiming to prevent the further economic downturn under the coronavirus pandemic and to protect the economy.<sup>124</sup>

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<sup>118</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 6.00% p.a. Access Date: 1 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2278>

<sup>119</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 5.50% p.a. Access Date: 7 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2287>

<sup>120</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 5.00% p.a. Access Date: 1 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2294>

<sup>121</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 4.50% p.a. Access Date: 7 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2303>

<sup>122</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 4.25% p.a. Access Date: 7 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2311>

<sup>123</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 3.75% p.a. Access Date: 7 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2317>

<sup>124</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 3.00% p.a. Access Date: 7 May 2020.  
<https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2329>

On 17 July 2020, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 2.25 per cent, in its 231st meeting. This was aiming to prevent the further economic downturn under the coronavirus pandemic and to protect the economy.<sup>125</sup>

On 5 August 2020, Copom unanimously decided to lower the level of the Selic rate to 2.00 per cent, in its 232nd meeting. This was aiming to prevent the possible largest economic downturn since the Great Depression under the coronavirus pandemic and to protect the economy.<sup>126</sup>

On 16 September 2020, Copom unanimously decided to maintain the Selic rate at 2.00 per cent.<sup>127</sup> This was aiming to support economic growth in Brazil, taking into consideration the significant uncertainty of the current state of the global economy.<sup>128</sup>

Brazil has taken actions that do not promote inclusive growth. Its actions safeguarding against the downside risk also only reach to a limited level, considering the effect of its trade policies implemented acts as a negative factor, despite its implemented regulations to secure the financial system, and policies to stimulate market economy.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Zeng Lecheng*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to inclusive growth and protection against downside risk.

On 1 August 2019, the federal government announced an investment of CAD4.9 million in Manitoba. The investment will go towards initiatives to drive economic and growth in northern Manitoba, the establishment of youth entrepreneurship centres, Indigenous-related programs.<sup>129</sup>

On 1 September 2019, the amendment to the Canada Labour Code on balancing work and home life came into force.<sup>130</sup> The amendment addresses work-life balance issues, including leaves, annual vacations and general holidays, hours of work and overtime and other breaks.

On 10 December 2019, Canada, the United States and Mexico signed the amendments to the improvements to the Canada–United States–Mexico Agreement.<sup>131</sup> The amendments address the areas of labour protection, trilateral economic relationship and intellectual property.

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<sup>125</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 2.25% p.a. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2336>

<sup>126</sup> Copom lowers Selic rate to 2.00% p.a. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/monetarypolicy/copomstatements/2345>

<sup>127</sup> Copom maintains Selic rate at 2.00% p.a., Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/pressdetail/2355/nota>

<sup>128</sup> Copom maintains Selic rate at 2.00% p.a., Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/pressdetail/2355/nota>

<sup>129</sup> The Government of Canada contributes to inclusive economic growth in Manitoba, the Government of Canada (Ottawa). 01 August 2019. Access date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2019/07/the-government-of-canada-contributes-to-inclusive-economic-growth-in-manitoba.html>

<sup>130</sup> Labour Program: Current and future legislative and regulatory changes, the Government of Canada (Ottawa). Access date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/laws-regulations/labour/current-future-legislative.html>

On 1 January 2020, the basic personal amount, which the amount of money Canadians can earn before they have to pay federal income tax, was increased from CAD12,298 to CAD13,229.<sup>132</sup>

On 31 January 2020, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau announced that the Advisory Committee on Open Banking will undertake a second phase of work to continue to examine the merits of open banking with a particular focus on data security in financial services.<sup>133</sup> The committee will provide advice on potential solutions and standards to enhance data protection in the financial sector, examining issues such as governance, consumer control of personal data, privacy and security.

On 7 October 2020, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced a new measure to help students borrowers “manage financial burdens they face when taking temporary medical or parental leave from their studies – including for mental health reasons.”<sup>134</sup> Those who qualify and are approved under the new measures will not have to pay back or pay interest on their Canada Student Loans for six months, extendable to a total of 18 months.<sup>135</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Government of Canada through Indigenous Services Canada announced its support of CAD1 million for the creation of a business center in Membertou that will offer modern rental space for local organizations and businesses.<sup>136</sup> This funding comes from the Community Opportunity Readiness Project and contributes to supporting economic development opportunities and growth in Indigenous communities.<sup>137</sup>

Canada has taken actions that both promote inclusive growth, as well as safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Olga Tumurova*

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<sup>131</sup> Canada signs agreement on amendments to the new NAFTA, the Prime Minister of Canada (Mexico City). 10 December 2019. Access date: 2 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2019/12/10/canada-signs-agreement-amendments-new-nafta>

<sup>132</sup> 2020 Brings Lower Taxes for the Middle Class and People Working Hard to Join It, the Government of Canada. 23 December 2019. Access date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/12/2020-brings-lower-taxes-for-the-middle-class-and-people-working-hard-to-join-it.html>

<sup>133</sup> Minister Morneau announces second phase of open banking review with a focus on data security in financial services, the Government of Canada (Ottawa). 31 January 2020. Access date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/01/minister-morneau-announces-second-phase-of-open-banking-review-with-a-focus-on-data-security-in-financial-services.html>

<sup>134</sup> New interest relief measure to provide much-needed help to Canada Student Loan borrowers on medical or parental leave, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/canada-student-loans-programs-new-medical-and-parental-leave.html>

<sup>135</sup> New interest relief measure to provide much-needed help to Canada Student Loan borrowers on medical or parental leave, Government of Canada (Gatineau) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/10/canada-student-loans-programs-new-medical-and-parental-leave.html>

<sup>136</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the construction of new office space in Membertou First Nation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-construction-of-new-office-space-in-membertou-first-nation.html>

<sup>137</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the construction of new office space in Membertou First Nation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-construction-of-new-office-space-in-membertou-first-nation.html>

## China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 28 June 2019, the People's Bank of China (PBC) held the Leading Group Meeting for Poverty Alleviation and Development of the PBC and the Meeting on Implementing and Promoting Self-examination and Self-rectification in Targeted Poverty Alleviation was held in Beijing.<sup>138</sup> The PBC addresses immediate challenges while gathering momentum for long-term development at the same time, taking measures to promptly rectify current problems, expand visions to draw up overall plans, improve policies which can bring about long-term benefits, and promote effective linkage of the tough battle against poverty and rural vitalization strategy.<sup>139</sup>

On 11 July 2019, the PBC held a meeting in Lhasa, Tibet, to push forward targeted poverty alleviation efforts by the financial sector in areas of extreme poverty.<sup>140</sup> The meeting has emphasized problem orientation as well as goal orientation and improving the effectiveness of targeted poverty alleviation through financial measures, thus provide even stronger financial support.<sup>141</sup>

On 20 July 20, the Office of Financial Stability and Development Committee under the State Council released a series of measures to further open up China's financial sector.<sup>142</sup> Measures permit foreign-funded institutions to conduct credit rating business on all types of bonds in China's inter-bank and exchange bond markets, and to obtain Type-A lead underwriting licenses in the inter-bank bond market; and China will further facilitate the investments of foreign-funded institutions in the inter-bank bond market.<sup>143</sup>

On 20 August 2019, the PBC decided to increase the targeted credit line by RMB50 billion to support small and medium-sized banks in expanding their credit supply to small and micro businesses and private enterprises.<sup>144</sup> In this way, liquidity will be injected into the targeted sector and the cost of social financing will be lowered, and the credit line targeting small and micro businesses will reach RMB369.5 billion after the raise.<sup>145</sup>

On 27 August 2019, the PBC released the FinTech Development Plan (2019-2021) to outline guidelines, basic principles, development targets, key tasks and supportive measures for fintech development in the next three years.<sup>146</sup> As the plan envisions, by 2021, it will institute a sound fundamental framework for fintech development supported by multiple pillars, so as to further

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<sup>138</sup> PBC Holds Leading Group Meeting, People's Bank of China 3 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3853320/index.html>

<sup>139</sup> PBC Holds Leading Group Meeting, People's Bank of China 3 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3853320/index.html>

<sup>140</sup> Lhasa Meeting to Advance Targeted Poverty Alleviation, People's Bank of China 18 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3861682/index.html>

<sup>141</sup> Lhasa Meeting to Advance Targeted Poverty Alleviation, People's Bank of China 18 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3861682/index.html>

<sup>142</sup> PBC Official Interprets Measures for Further Opening Up the Financial Sector, People's Bank of China 24 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3864659/index.html>

<sup>143</sup> PBC Official Interprets Measures for Further Opening Up the Financial Sector, People's Bank of China 24 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3864659/index.html>

<sup>144</sup> PBC Extends Credit Line for Small and Medium-Sized Banks, People's Bank of China 02 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3869279/index.html>

<sup>145</sup> PBC Extends Credit Line for Small and Medium-Sized Banks, People's Bank of China 02 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3869279/index.html>

<sup>146</sup> PBC Releases FinTech Development Plan, 27 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3880801/index.html>

enhance technological application in the financial sector, achieve in-depth integration and coordinated development of finance and technology, elevate public satisfaction via digital, Internet-based and intelligent financial products and services, and promote China's fintech development to be world leading.<sup>147</sup>

On 25 October 2019, the PBC and the European Central Bank signed an amendment agreement to extend the current bilateral currency swap arrangement for another three.<sup>148</sup> The extended swap arrangement will play an important role in maintaining financial market stability and promoting local currency usage between China and Europe, as well as facilitating bilateral trade and investment.<sup>149</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the State Council has issued a guideline on better using foreign investment with a focus on safeguarding the national treatment of foreign-funded enterprises.<sup>150</sup> The guideline puts forward 20 policies in four aspects to create a more "fair, transparent and predictable" business environment for foreign investors.<sup>151</sup>

On 13 November 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) said that China will introduce unified regional gross domestic product (GDP) accounting in early 2020.<sup>152</sup> The reform is an inevitable requirement for improving the quality of statistical data and the credibility of government statistics and can give better play to the statistical supervision and provide more solid data support for macro decision-making.<sup>153</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) announced that China will release frozen pork reserves to the market at an appropriate time to meet public demand and will also step up efforts to boost hog production through central budget support to scale up breeding farms and improve waste utilization.<sup>154</sup> China's consumer price index (CPI), a main gauge of inflation, rose 3.8 per cent year on year last month, mainly driven by soaring pork prices, which rose 101.3 per cent year on year in October, contributing nearly two thirds of the CPI growth.<sup>155</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the NDRC and other 14 departments released a guideline to promote deeply integrated development of the manufacturing industry and modern service industry, which will offer critical support for high-quality growth of the manufacturing industry.<sup>156</sup> The guideline introduced a total of 10 typical business models with huge potential and promising outlook, including construction

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<sup>147</sup> PBC Releases FinTech Development Plan, 27 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3880801/index.html>

<sup>148</sup> PBC and ECB extend the Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement, 25 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3908398/index.html>

<sup>149</sup> PBC and ECB extend the Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement, 25 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<http://www.PBC.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3908398/index.html>

<sup>150</sup> China issues guideline on improving business environment for foreign investors, 7 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/07/content\\_75385329.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/07/content_75385329.htm)

<sup>151</sup> China issues guideline on improving business environment for foreign investors, 7 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/07/content\\_75385329.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/07/content_75385329.htm)

<sup>152</sup> China reforms regional GDP accounting to boost data quality, 14 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/14/content\\_75406840.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/14/content_75406840.htm)

<sup>153</sup> China reforms regional GDP accounting to boost data quality, 14 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/14/content\\_75406840.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/14/content_75406840.htm)

<sup>154</sup> China to release pork reserves at appropriate time, 15 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/15/content\\_75411958.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/15/content_75411958.htm)

<sup>155</sup> China to release pork reserves at appropriate time, 15 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/15/content\\_75411958.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/15/content_75411958.htm)

<sup>156</sup> China to nurture new business models for integrated development, 16 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/16/content\\_75414651.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/16/content_75414651.htm)



of intelligent factories, innovative application of the industrial internet and optimization of supply chain management.<sup>157</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng called for enhanced development and reform efforts to ensure steady economic growth in 2020 to fulfill the 13th Five-Year Plan.<sup>158</sup> According to him, major foreign investment projects will be facilitated while more opening-up policies will be rolled out and the business environment will be further improved, and he also urged acceleration in implementing regional development strategies such as those concerning the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, the Yangtze River and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area to nurture new engines for China's high-quality growth.<sup>159</sup>

On 25 December 2019, Minister of Finance Liu Kun briefed lawmakers on the tax cuts and fee reduction work at the third plenary meeting of the ongoing bimonthly session of the country's top legislature entrusted by the State Council.<sup>160</sup> He said China's massive tax and fee cut measures saved enterprises and individuals nearly RMB1.97 trillion (about USD280.73 billion) in the first 10 months of the year.<sup>161</sup> According to Liu, the tax and fee cut measures have eased the cost burden on enterprises, offered support to private and small and micro businesses, enabled enterprises to invest more in research and development and boosted personal incomes and capacity for consumption.<sup>162</sup>

On 25 December 2019, the NBS said China will revise historical regional GDP data under a unified accounting mechanism to be introduced early next year.<sup>163</sup> The new mechanism will unify the standards and procedures for calculating national and local GDP numbers, which had been calculated under different accounting methods adopted by local and national statistics authorities since 1985 and the reform is expected to close the current discrepancy between national and regional figures, improving data quality while enhancing the credibility of government statistics.<sup>164</sup>

On 1 January 2020, Premier Li Keqiang signed a State Council decree to publish the regulation on implementing the foreign investment law to better protect the legitimate rights and interests of foreign investors.<sup>165</sup> As a matching regulation to the foreign investment law, the regulation highlights the promotion and protection of foreign investment and details measures to ensure the effective

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<sup>157</sup> China to nurture new business models for integrated development, 16 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/16/content\\_75414651.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-11/16/content_75414651.htm)

<sup>158</sup> Chinese vice premier calls to ensure steady economic growth, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/20/content\\_75532442.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/20/content_75532442.htm)

<sup>159</sup> Chinese vice premier calls to ensure steady economic growth, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/20/content\\_75532442.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/20/content_75532442.htm)

<sup>160</sup> China's tax and fee cuts reach 1.97 trln yuan, 26 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content\\_75550728.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content_75550728.htm)

<sup>161</sup> China's tax and fee cuts reach 1.97 trln yuan, 26 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content\\_75550728.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content_75550728.htm)

<sup>162</sup> China's tax and fee cuts reach 1.97 trln yuan, 26 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content\\_75550728.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/26/content_75550728.htm)

<sup>163</sup> China to issue revised local GDP numbers under unified accounting, 26 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/27/content\\_75556226.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/27/content_75556226.htm)

<sup>164</sup> China to issue revised local GDP numbers under unified accounting, 26 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/27/content\\_75556226.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2019-12/27/content_75556226.htm)

<sup>165</sup> China releases regulation on implementing foreign investment law, 1 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content\\_75568406.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content_75568406.htm)

implementation of the law.<sup>166</sup> The regulation also stipulates investment policies for enterprises from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, and legal responsibilities for violations of the regulation.<sup>167</sup>

On 1 January 2020, the PBC decided to cut the reserve requirement ratio for financial institutions by 50 basis points from 6 January to spur the real economy.<sup>168</sup> The move will cut the cash that lenders must hold as reserves, releasing about RMB800 billion (USD114.6 billion) of long-term liquidity to bolster the economy and reduce social financing costs.<sup>169</sup> More than RMB120 billion in long-term funds is expected to be unlocked for small and medium-sized lenders, which will build up their capacities to support the targeted enterprises.<sup>170</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the state-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission released a report on pushing mergers and restructurings among centrally administered state-owned enterprises (SOEs) in 2020 to improve their efficiency and competitiveness.<sup>171</sup> Consolidations will focus on area with overlapping investments and homogeneous competition.<sup>172</sup> Equipment manufacturing, chemicals, marine engineering equipment, oil refining businesses and overseas gas and oil assets are among the sectors that will see accelerated restructurings.<sup>173</sup>

On 12 January 2020, Minister for Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei said China will not significantly cut its subsidies for new energy vehicles this year, as part of its effort to stabilize market expectations and ensure the healthy and sustainable development of the industry.<sup>174</sup> It is hoped new energy vehicle enterprises will have the confidence to boost their innovation capabilities, improve product quality and strengthen market development.<sup>175</sup>

On 13 January 2020, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission showed the data of China disposing a total of RMB2 trillion (around USD288.4 billion) of non-performing loans last year and shrinking shadow banking assets by RMB16 trillion.<sup>176</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the PBC conducted reverse repo operations in the amount of RMB1.2 trillion to maintain reasonable and adequate liquidity in the banking system and sound operation of the

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<sup>166</sup> China releases regulation on implementing foreign investment law, 1 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content\\_75568406.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content_75568406.htm)

<sup>167</sup> China releases regulation on implementing foreign investment law, 1 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content\\_75568406.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/01/content_75568406.htm)

<sup>168</sup> China to cut RRR by 50 basis points, 2 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content\\_75570159.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content_75570159.htm)

<sup>169</sup> China to cut RRR by 50 basis points, 2 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content\\_75570159.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content_75570159.htm)

<sup>170</sup> China to cut RRR by 50 basis points, 2 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content\\_75570159.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/02/content_75570159.htm)

<sup>171</sup> China to push restructurings of central SOEs in 2020, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content\\_75594478.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content_75594478.htm)

<sup>172</sup> China to push restructurings of central SOEs in 2020, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content\\_75594478.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content_75594478.htm)

<sup>173</sup> China to push restructurings of central SOEs in 2020, 9 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content\\_75594478.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/09/content_75594478.htm)

<sup>174</sup> China will not significantly cut new energy vehicle subsidies this year, 12 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/12/content\\_75604467.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/12/content_75604467.htm)

<sup>175</sup> China will not significantly cut new energy vehicle subsidies this year, 12 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/12/content\\_75604467.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/12/content_75604467.htm)

<sup>176</sup> China handles 2 trln yuan of bad loans in 2019, 13 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/13/content\\_75606272.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-01/13/content_75606272.htm)

money market during the period of epidemic prevention and control. The liquidity in the whole banking system is RMB900 billion more than that of the same period of last year.<sup>177</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the NDRC invested RMB2 million (about USD28.67 million) to help treat severe cases of novel coronavirus infection. The investment was directed to three hospitals in Hubei Province, the heart of the coronavirus outbreak, for building treatment units for severe cases. The commission said it will prioritize medical treatment and quarantine facilities in future investments to combat the virus.<sup>178</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the Agricultural Development Bank of China (ADBC) approved emergency loans worth RMB10.07 billion amid the novel coronavirus pneumonia outbreak. The move aims to finance enterprises in manufacturing and purchasing of prevention and control supplies, as well as anti-epidemic materials including grain, cotton and oil. The loans will fully support enterprises in purchasing masks and protective equipment, as well as ensuring market supplies.<sup>179</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the Ministry of Finance (MOF) allocated a total of RMB71.85 billion (about USD10.3 billion) of fiscal funds to support the control of the novel coronavirus outbreak. The supervision was strengthened to ensure those in need get the funds and it continued to roll out favorable policies to support epidemic control.<sup>180</sup>

On 9 February 2020, the PBC announced adoption of a mix of measures to facilitate and support financial institutions in issuing financial bonds of all sorts, as well as asset-backed securities and securities company commercial papers during the period of epidemic prevention and control. During this period, financial institutions may send electronic copies of application and filing documents for bond issuance via e-mail and other channels for the remote handling of bond issuance. The validity of financial bond quotas will be extended, and the validity countdown for the approved or registered bond quotas will be suspended starting from 1 February 2020.<sup>181</sup>

On 9 February 2020, the PBC issued loans totaling RMB300 billion (about USD43 billion) to policy and commercial banks via its re-lending program as part of measures to finance the control of the novel coronavirus outbreak. The special loans will be issued at a preferential rate and the central bank will strictly track the use of funds to prevent potential arbitrage.<sup>182</sup>

On 11 February 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology unveiled a string of 20 measures to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help boost their innovation capabilities. The move is part of China's broader efforts to maintain economic stability and help companies' temporary difficulties caused by the novel coronavirus epidemic. The ministry also said it has encouraged local governments to roll out their own favorable fiscal policies to support SMEs.

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<sup>177</sup> PBC to inject RMB1.2 trillion through open market operations on February 3, 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.  
<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3966152/index.html>

<sup>178</sup> China invests 200 mln yuan to treat severe nCoV cases. Access Date: 20 March 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/08/content\\_75684784.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/08/content_75684784.htm)

<sup>179</sup> China's rural policy bank loans firms over 10 bln yuan to combat coronavirus. Access Date: 20 March 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/09/content\\_75686741.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/09/content_75686741.htm)

<sup>180</sup> China allocates 71.8 bln yuan of fiscal funds for epidemic control. Access Date: 20 March 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/10/content\\_75688562.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/10/content_75688562.htm)

<sup>181</sup> PBC Takes Measures for Bond Issuance by Financial Institutions to Support Epidemic Control. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3969153/index.html>

<sup>182</sup> China to offer 300 bln yuan credit support for epidemic control. Access Date: 20 March 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/10/content\\_75688561.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/10/content_75688561.htm)

Also, more efforts will be made to help SMEs better apply for loans from banks and adopt cutting-edge technologies to advance digital transformation.<sup>183</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the Ministry of Commerce released a circular to arrange for the steady supply of daily necessities in key cities to win the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak. Supply of daily necessities including rice, flour, cooking oil, meat, eggs, dairy products, vegetables and instant food should be guaranteed, the ministry said. The circular also stressed efforts to monitor the dynamics of market supply and demand, as well as safeguard the market order.<sup>184</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the ADBC issued bonds worth RMB5 billion (about USD715.3 million) for both the battle against the novel coronavirus outbreak and poverty alleviation. The move aims to support the production of medical supplies and daily necessities amid the country's epidemic prevention and control efforts. The funds will also be used to develop industries involved in the poverty alleviation campaign, including grain, oil and agricultural product processing, tourism, energy-saving and environmental protection.<sup>185</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the PBC, jointly with the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC), reviewed and approved the application of Mastercard NUCC Information Technology (Beijing) Co., Ltd. for beginning preparations for a bankcard clearing institution. Mastercard NUCC, a joint venture started by Mastercard in China, applied as a market entity for beginning preparations to set up a bank card clearing institution and operate Mastercard in China. As an important part of China's financial opening-up efforts, the opening-up of the bankcard market will help promote the development of payment and clearing services in China in a more open and internationalized way, so that diversified and differentiated services will be offered. The approval of Mastercard NUCC's application adds to the concrete moves China has taken to further open up its financial sector and deepen financial supply-side structural reform.<sup>186</sup>

On 14 February 2020, the State Council officially approved and released the Opinions on Further Accelerating the Development of Shanghai as an International Financial Center and Providing Financial Support for the Integrated Development of the Yangtze River Delta Region. It is a major development strategy determined by the Communist Party of China Central Committee to accelerate the development of Shanghai as an international financial center and the integrated development of Yangtze River Delta, which also fully demonstrates our continuous efforts in improving the national governance system and enhancing governance capacity in the financial sector under the guidelines of the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee.<sup>187</sup>

On 25 February 2020, the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the MOF, the PBC and the CBIRC jointly released an announcement recently, allowing qualified pilot commercial banks and insurers with proper investment management capacity to participate in the trading of treasury bond futures at the China Financial Futures Exchange in line with the principles of law compliance,

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<sup>183</sup> Regulator unveils new steps for SMEs. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/11/content\\_75692911.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/11/content_75692911.htm)

<sup>184</sup> China to ensure daily necessities supplies amid anti-epidemic battle. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/12/content\\_75696272.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/12/content_75696272.htm)

<sup>185</sup> China's rural policy bank issues bonds for epidemic control. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/12/content\\_75696273.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/12/content_75696273.htm)

<sup>186</sup> PBC Approves Mastercard NUCC's Application for Bankcard Clearing Institution Preparations. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3970813/index.html>

<sup>187</sup> PBC, CBIRC, CSRC, SAFE and Shanghai Municipal People's Government Release the Opinions on Further Accelerating the Development of Shanghai as an International Financial Center and Providing Financial Support for the Integrated Development of the Yangtze River Delta Region. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3972683/index.html>

manageable risks and sustainable business development. The participation of commercial banks and insurers in treasury bond futures trading can satisfy their need for risk management, broaden the spectrum of investment products and improve their management of bond assets. Meanwhile, it will also help diversify investor base and promote the stable and orderly development of the treasury bond futures market.<sup>188</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the PBC conducted central bank bills swap operation in order to improve the liquidity of banks' perpetual bonds, support banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance, and enable the financial sector to better serve the real economy. The bonds swapped with the PBC included the perpetual bonds issued not only by large-sized commercial banks and joint-stock banks, but also by urban commercial banks, which indicated the support for the small and medium-sized banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance.<sup>189</sup>

On 29 February 2020, the Ministry of Commerce, along with other five government departments issued a guideline to guide financial institutions to issue extra low-interest loans totaling RMB300 billion (around USD42.82 billion) to self-employed businesses. Self-employed businesses will also see a cut in their social insurance contributions, rent and value-added tax (VAT) burdens, the guideline said, promising easier access to the market for these businesses.<sup>190</sup>

On 4 March 2020, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee said in a meeting that the country will accelerate the construction of new infrastructure such as 5G networks and data centres. A total of 25 provincial-level regions have put new infrastructure projects in their government work reports, with 21 intending to advance 5G network construction.<sup>191</sup>

On 12 March 2020, the PBC, the NDRC, the MOF, the CBIRC, the CSRC and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) jointly released the Work Plan for Coordinated Regulation of Financial Infrastructures. In the next step, the PBC will work closely with relevant authorities and local governments to steadily push forward reforms laid out in the plan, unify regulatory standards, enhance market access administration, optimize the layout of facilities and improve governance structure, so as to put in place an advanced, reliable and flexible financial infrastructure system featuring well-balanced layout and effective governance.<sup>192</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the PBC implemented targeted required reserve ratio (RRR) cuts for inclusive finance to shore up the real economy and lower the actual costs of financing, lowering the RRR for banks that meet assessment criteria by 0.5 to 1 per cent. In addition, eligible joint-stock commercial banks will enjoy an additional targeted RRR cut of one percentage point for lending in inclusive finance. The cuts will release RMB550 billion of long-term funds. Implementing a sound monetary policy while making it more flexible and appropriate, the PBC will attach greater importance to facilitating the recovery of the real economy. Refraining from indiscriminate massive stimulus, the PBC will strike a balance between internal and external equilibria, keep liquidity reasonable and adequate, ensure the growth of money and credit as well as the Aggregate Financing to the Real

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<sup>188</sup> Diversify Investor Base for Treasury Bond Futures and Promote Sound and Orderly Market Development. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3977429/index.html>

<sup>189</sup> PBC Conducted CBS Operation on February 28. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3980004/index.html>

<sup>190</sup> China steps up support for self-employed businesses amid epidemic. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/29/content\\_75758024.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-02/29/content_75758024.htm)

<sup>191</sup> China speeds up 'new infrastructure' investment to combat economic pressure. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-03/05/content\\_75777877.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-03/05/content_75777877.htm)

<sup>192</sup> PBC, NDRC and Four Other Authorities Jointly Release the Work Plan for Coordinated Regulation of Financial Infrastructures. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3988223/index.html>

Economy well aligned with economic growth, so as to create a favorable monetary and financial environment for high-quality development and supply-side structural reform.<sup>193</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the PBC conducted a central bank bills swap (CBS) operation in order to improve the liquidity of bank-issued perpetual bonds, support banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance, and enable the finance sector to better serve the real economy. The operation registered RMB5 billion, with a term of three months and a rate of 0.10 per cent. The bonds swapped with the PBC included the perpetual bonds issued not only by large-sized commercial banks and joint-stock banks, but also by urban commercial banks, which indicated the support for the small and medium-sized banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance.<sup>194</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the PBC announced a decision to cut RRR by 1 percentage point for rural credit cooperatives, rural commercial banks, rural cooperative banks, village banks, as well as city commercial banks operating solely within provincial-level administrative regions. The decision would be implemented on 15 April and 15 May, with a cut of 0.5 percentage points each time. The cuts would release about RMB400 billion of long-term funds. In addition, the PBC decided to lower the interest rate on excess reserves for financial institutions from 0.72 per cent to 0.35 per cent starting from 7 April.<sup>195</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the PBC released the revised version of the Measures of the People's Bank of China for the Implementation of Administrative Permits. The measures showed the commitment to deepening reforms that “delegate powers, improve regulation and optimize government services” and strengthening interim and ex-post supervision. The measures also provided the institutional basis for comprehensively promoting e-government services and going through administrative permit procedures via a single portal.<sup>196</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the PBC conducted a CBS operation in order to improve the liquidity of bank-issued perpetual bonds, support banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance, and enable the finance sector to better serve the real economy. The operation registered RMB5 billion, with a term of three months and a rate of 0.10 per cent. The bonds swapped with the PBC included the perpetual bonds issued not only by large-sized commercial banks and joint-stock banks, but also by urban commercial banks, which indicated the support for the small and medium-sized banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance.<sup>197</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the State Council's executive meeting decided to give greater weight to inclusive financing in evaluating the performance of financial institutions and lower the provision coverage ratio of small and medium-sized banks so as to boost financial services for micro and small firms. The regulatory requirement for the provision coverage ratio of small and medium-sized banks would be lowered by 20 percentage points, to free up more credit resources and boost the capacity for serving micro and small companies. The meeting decided to raise the weight of inclusive finance to

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<sup>193</sup> PBC Scheduled to Conduct Targeted RRR Cuts on March 16, Releasing RMB550 Billion Long-term Funds. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/3989478/index.html>

<sup>194</sup> PBC Conducted CBS Operation on March 25. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/3995723/index.html>

<sup>195</sup> PBC Scheduled to Cut RRR for Small and Medium-sized Banks and IOER for Financial Institutions in April. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4002931/index.html>

<sup>196</sup> PBC Releases Revised Measures for Administrative Permit Implementation. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4004386/index.html>

<sup>197</sup> PBC Conducted CBS Operation on April 21. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4011802/index.html>

no less than 10 per cent in the integrated performance evaluation of the branches and subsidiaries of financial institutions in the banking sector, to incentivize more lending to micro and small firms.<sup>198</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the CBIRC took measures to check on business loans collateralized with real estate to prevent such loans from flowing into the property market. The CBIRC asked the banks to monitor the flow of capital and ensure the loans would be used in line with the purpose for which the loan was applied and cannot be misappropriated.<sup>199</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the ADBC, the nation's third-largest issuer of bonds, launched RMB2 billion worth of bonds to support ecological protection. The bonds would mature in three years, with the interest rate standing at 1.649 per cent, aiming to fund key areas of the ecological civilization construction. As of the end of the first quarter, the policy bank's outstanding loans for green development totaled RMB659 billion, involving sectors including ecological environment, energy conservation, green upgrades of infrastructure as well as clean industry.<sup>200</sup>

On 26 April 2020, the MOF and SAT issued a statement to extend tax exemptions by an additional four years to further improve the inclusive finance service for smaller businesses. The joint statement also said the VAT, which was already collected but eligible to be waived, can be deducted in subsequent months, or refunded.<sup>201</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the State Council approved an overall plan on establishing a demonstration zone for cooperation between China and the Korea in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province. Construction of the demonstration zone would proceed under the principle of high-quality development, in an effort to establish a multifaceted open cooperation structure covering industries, technologies, trade, social studies and environmental protection. Once established, the demonstration zone would inject new vitality into the joint building of the Belt and Road Initiative and overall revitalization of the northeast region.<sup>202</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the PBC expanded the pilot program of FinTech Innovation Regulation, covering the cities of Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenzhen, Hangzhou, Suzhou, as well as Xiong'an New Area of Hebei, by guiding licensed financial institutions and tech companies to apply for an innovation test. The PBC would explore modern information technologies to empower finance for the benefits of the public and enterprises, help solve the problems of micro and small enterprises and private enterprises, such as the difficulties in and high costs of financing, and the last-mile problem of financial inclusion, support pandemic containment and resumption of work and production, and improve the quality of financial services for the real economy.<sup>203</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the MOF and the Civil Aviation Administration of China jointly issued the policy on the management of subsidies to small and medium-sized airports. The policy would grant support to

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<sup>198</sup> China to free up more funds to better serve small firms. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content\\_75960893.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content_75960893.htm)

<sup>199</sup> China tightens regulation of business loans collateralized with property. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content\\_75963852.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content_75963852.htm)

<sup>200</sup> China's policy bank issues 2 bln yuan of bonds to aid ecological protection. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content\\_75964130.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/22/content_75964130.htm)

<sup>201</sup> China extends small businesses tax exemptions by four years. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/27/content\\_75980677.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/27/content_75980677.htm)

<sup>202</sup> China-ROK cooperation demonstration zone to take shape. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/28/content\\_75985258.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-04/28/content_75985258.htm)

<sup>203</sup> PBC Expands Pilot Program of FinTech Innovation Regulation to Shanghai and Five Other Cities (Areas). Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4015485/index.html>

small and medium-sized airports in regions with deep poverty, border regions, ethnic minority areas and other remote regions with inconvenient land transportation would be strengthened.<sup>204</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Ministry of Education, jointly with five other departments and units, launched a national campaign to boost the employment and entrepreneurship of Chinese university graduates. The ministry has arranged to expand postgraduate enrollment by nearly 190,000 this year. In addition, over 400,000 graduates will be recruited as teachers of kindergartens, primary and secondary schools. Relevant departments are urged to implement preferential policies to encourage small, medium-sized and micro enterprises to recruit more college graduates.<sup>205</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the PBC and SAFE issued the Regulations on Funds of Securities and Futures Investment by Foreign Institutional Investors to standardize and simplify administrative requirements on the remittance and repatriation of funds as well as currency exchanges by foreign institutional investors, aiming to better facilitate foreign investors' participation in China's financial market.<sup>206</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Ministry of Commerce and China UnionPay jointly issued a circular to reduce firms' transaction costs, improve corporate credit services, optimize payment and settlement environment, support the growth of credit consumption and enhance data sharing. Local commerce authorities would be encouraged to work with branches of China UnionPay to assist those firms with a series of targeted and flexible programs to spur the vitality of consumption and form a strong domestic market.<sup>207</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the NDRC announced that it would take actions to fuel the transformation of SMEs toward digitalization, as part of efforts to tide them over the tough time. The NDRC would cooperate with other government departments, leading enterprises, financial institutions, research institutes, and industrial associations to provide online services for SMEs to help them be more digitally savvy.<sup>208</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the Operations Office of the PBC announced to have filed a record for Fitch (China) Bohua Credit Ratings Co., Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based Fitch Ratings in China.

On the same day, the National Association of Financial Market Institutional Investors also released a public notice on its approval of the registration of Fitch Bohua for conducting bond credit rating business in China's interbank bond market. The opening-up of the credit rating sector marked an important part of the move to open up China's financial sector and helped promoting the high-level development and international presence of China's credit rating sector and financial market.<sup>209</sup>

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<sup>204</sup> China to further support small, medium-sized airports in remote regions. Access Date: 16 July 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/06/content\\_76011920.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/06/content_76011920.htm)

<sup>205</sup> China to launch national campaign to boost employment of university graduates. Access Date: 16 July 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/07/content\\_76014228.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/07/content_76014228.htm)

<sup>206</sup> PBC & SAFE Remove QFII / RQFII Investment Quotas and Promote Further Opening-up of China's Financial Market. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4020031/index.html>

<sup>207</sup> China to support commercial circulation firms in consumption promotion. Access Date: 16 July 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/12/content\\_76034068.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/12/content_76034068.htm)

<sup>208</sup> China to promote digital transformation of SMEs. Access Date: 16 July 2020.  
[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/14/content\\_76042337.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/14/content_76042337.htm)

<sup>209</sup> Fitch Ratings to Access China's Credit Rating Market. Access Date: 16 July 2020.  
<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4024542/index.html>



On 16 May 2020, the PBC, the CBIRC, the CSRC and the SAFE released the Opinions on Providing Financial Support for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. The opinions proposed 26 specific measures for five areas, including promoting cross-border trade and facilitating investment and financing in the Greater Bay Area, expanding the opening-up of the financial sector, enhancing the connectivity of financial markets and financial infrastructure, boosting the innovation of financial services in the Greater Bay Area, and earnestly preventing cross-border financial risks. The release of the opinions would further promote financial opening-up and innovation, deepen financial cooperation between the mainland and Hong Kong and Macao, enhance the role of the Greater Bay Area in supporting and leading China's economic development and opening-up, and provide strong financial support for the construction of a dynamic and internationally competitive first-class bay area and a world-class city cluster.<sup>210</sup>

On 17 May 2020, the State Council issued a guideline on advancing the development of western regions in new era to promote coordinated regional development on Sunday. The guideline stressed to strengthen the building of transport channels and opening-up platforms while developing an open economy at the high-level and expanding regional cooperation, the document said. In the meantime, the document underlined enhancing ecological protection and deepening reforms in key areas of the western regions. Efforts should be made to strengthen public services for employment and entrepreneurship, support quality development of education and improve medical services. The social security system, the old-age service system, public cultural and sports services as well as housing conditions should also be improved, while the capability of disaster prevention and mitigation and emergency management needs to be enhanced.<sup>211</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the State Council submitted a draft budget report to the national legislature, setting aside RMB53.9 billion of employment subsidies this year amid efforts to ensure employment. The country would make good use of over RMB100 billion in special funds for vocational skills training, which were allocated from the balance of unemployment insurance funds. The central government would also use funds for rewarding and subsidizing structural adjustments in industrial enterprises and press local authorities to fully implement policies on employment and startups. The report also listed multiple measures to guarantee basic living standards for unemployed workers.<sup>212</sup>

On 26 May 2020, the PBC conducted a CBS operation in order to improve the liquidity of bank-issued perpetual bonds, support banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance, and enable the finance sector to better serve the real economy. The operation registered RMB5 billion, with a term of three months and a rate of 0.10 per cent. The bonds swapped with the PBC included the perpetual bonds issued not only by large-sized commercial banks and joint-stock banks, but also by urban commercial banks, which indicated the support for the small and medium-sized banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance.<sup>213</sup>

On 30 May 2020, the SAT released a statement to defer income tax payments for small companies with thin profit margins, as well as individually owned businesses, to help them resume business and production. Small companies with thin profit margins are allowed to suspend payments of corporate

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<sup>210</sup> PBC, CBIRC, CSRC and SAFE Release Opinions on Providing Financial Support for the Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4024534/index.html>

<sup>211</sup> China unveils guideline on advancing western development in new era. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/18/content\\_76056051.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/18/content_76056051.htm)

<sup>212</sup> China to enhance financial support to ensure employment. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/23/content\\_76080318.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/23/content_76080318.htm)

<sup>213</sup> PBC Conducted CBS Operation on May 26. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4028807/index.html>

income tax from 1 May 1 to 31 December 2020 until the first filing period in 2021, once they complete required filing procedures and Individual business owners can delay payments of individual income tax incurred in the same period until the first filing period next year.<sup>214</sup>

On 1 June 2020, the PBC, jointly with the CBIRC, the MOF, NDRC and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, issued the Notice on Extending the Policy of Phased Deferment of Loan Principal and Interest Repayments for Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and the Notice on Stepping up Credit Support for Micro and Small Businesses. The Notice on Credit Support specified that, starting from 1 June 2020, the PBC would apply monetary policy tools in an innovative way by using RMB400 billion special quotas of central bank lending to purchase 40 per cent of new inclusive credit loans for micro and small businesses (MSBs) issued by qualified locally incorporated banks between 1 March 2020 and 31 December 2020, in a bid to encourage banks to expand credit issuance to MSBs and support more MSBs to receive unsecured credit support. The Notice on Credit Support also stressed that banking financial institutions shall focus particularly on examining the first source of repayment, reduce reliance on collateral, and diversify the system of credit loan products, so as to ensure a significant rise in the proportion of inclusive MSB credit loans in 2020. Locally incorporated banking financial institutions obtaining the support shall establish growth targets for inclusive MSB credit loans, ensure MSBs' benefits from policy dividends and lower the interest rates of credit loans.<sup>215</sup>

On 6 June 2020, the PBC introduced two new monetary policy instruments to directly channel funds into the real economy, using RMB400 billion of a special re-lending quota to purchase 40 per cent of inclusive loans to small and micro businesses, issued by local banks from 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020 and allowing small and micro businesses to apply for deferring their inclusive loan repayments, maturing by end-2020 to 31 March 2021, with penalty payment exempted. Both policy instruments would be aimed at helping small and micro enterprises maintain cash flow, gain easier access to loans, and lower the financing cost.<sup>216</sup>

On 7 June 2020, the Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council issued a circular, asking central SOEs to reduce or waive rents for small businesses in a bid to cut the latter's operating costs and bolster the slowing economy, according to the country's top state-owned asset regulator. The move is part of the country's efforts to support small and micro businesses hurt by the COVID-19 epidemic. China has cut benchmark lending rates, introduced tax breaks and increased lending to them with the aim of stabilizing employment and propping up the virus-hit economy.<sup>217</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the MOF issued three batches of special government bonds, including RMB50 billions of five-year bonds, RMB50 billions of seven-year bonds and RMB70 billions of ten-year bonds. China would pursue a more proactive and impactful fiscal policy, setting its fiscal deficit above 3.6 per cent of GDP and issuing RMB1 trillion of government bonds for COVID-19 control this year to release more funds for companies and individuals.<sup>218</sup>

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<sup>214</sup> China defers income tax payments for small firms, household businesses. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/30/content\\_76108772.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-05/30/content_76108772.htm)

<sup>215</sup> Further Defer Principal and Interest Repayments of MSME Loans, Step up Credit Support for MSBs and Strengthen Financial Support to Stabilize Businesses and Secure Employment. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4034523/index.html>

<sup>216</sup> China leverages monetary tools to channel funds into real economy. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/06/content\\_76132961.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/06/content_76132961.htm)

<sup>217</sup> China central SOEs to cut rents for small businesses. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/07/content\\_76134851.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/07/content_76134851.htm)

<sup>218</sup> China to issue 3rd batch of special bonds for COVID-19 control. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/16/content\\_76170233.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-06/16/content_76170233.htm)

On 29 June 2020, the PBC conducted a CBS operation in order to improve the liquidity of bank-issued perpetual bonds, support banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance, and enable the finance sector to better serve the real economy. The operation registered RMB5 billion, with a term of three months and a rate of 0.10 per cent. The bonds swapped with the PBC included the perpetual bonds issued not only by large-sized commercial banks and joint-stock banks, but also by urban commercial banks, which indicated the support for the small and medium-sized banks to replenish capital through perpetual bond issuance.<sup>219</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the State Council introduced a draft regulation on an executive meeting, making new guarantees for SMEs to ensure they are paid in full by government agencies, public institutions and large enterprises, including limits on payment times, information disclosure on overdue payments, and punishment for defaults. The meeting also unveiled new measures to boost the development of national high-tech industrial development zones. Pilot policies implemented in pilot free trade zones will be adopted and promoted in the high-tech zones. Restrictions on visa and residence permits will be eased for overseas talent, and greater opening-up and cooperation are pledged to help the high-tech zones better integrate into international industrial and supply chains.<sup>220</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the NDRC allocated RMB45.66 billion to boost the capacity for the prevention, control and treatment of diseases. The funds would focus on regions hit hard by the epidemic and fields in urgent need or facing shortage. The move would be meant to enhance counties' medical and health services capacity, promote the construction of regional medical centers, upgrade and transform treatment bases for major epidemics, improve the capability of treating critically ill patients, and reserve a certain number of facilities and equipment for emergency.<sup>221</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the MOF issued the fourth batch of special government bonds for COVID-19 control amid efforts to balance epidemic control with economic and social development. The ten-year fixed-rate bonds, worth RMB70 billion, would be available for tenders on July 15 and become tradable on July 20.<sup>222</sup>

On 13 July 2020, the Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) earmarked RMB600 million to support flood control and relief in five provincial-level regions. China's State Flood Control and Drought Relief Headquarters sent another six special work teams to key regions, hit hard by floods, to guide disaster relief efforts.<sup>223</sup>

On 14 July 2020, the PBC injected total of RMB30 billion into the market through seven-day reverse repos at an interest rate of 2.2 per cent. The injection was intended to maintain reasonable and sufficient liquidity in the banking system. The central bank pumped RMB50 billion into the banking system via reverse repos after skipping open market operations via reverse repos for ten consecutive trading days. The country would use a variety of tools including required reserve ratio reductions,

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<sup>219</sup> PBC Conducted CBS Operation on June 29. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

<http://www.pbc.gov.cn/en/3688110/3688172/4048269/4047369/index.html>

<sup>220</sup> China to strengthen financial support for enterprises. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/02/content\\_76227156.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/02/content_76227156.htm)

<sup>221</sup> China allocates funds to improve public health. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/07/content\\_76244131.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/07/content_76244131.htm)

<sup>222</sup> China to issue 4th batch of special bonds for COVID-19 control. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/09/content\\_76255516.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/09/content_76255516.htm)

<sup>223</sup> China allocates 600 million yuan for flood relief. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/14/content\\_76269667.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/14/content_76269667.htm)

interest rate cuts, and re-lending to enable M2 money supply and aggregate financing to grow at notably higher rates than last year.<sup>224</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the State Council released a regulation on ensuring timely payments to SMEs, standardizing the contract signing between the departments and SMEs, requiring them to pay for goods, projects, and services from SMEs on time. It also prohibited them from extending the payment period.<sup>225</sup>

On 21 July 2020, the State Council issued a guideline to further improve China's business environment and better serve market entities. It stresses six categories of policies and measures, including more streamlined and efficient approval procedures for construction projects and their financing, easier approval processes and conditions for enterprises generally, and an optimized business environment for foreign trade and investment. It also highlights support for employment and entrepreneurship, improved quality and efficiency of services provided to businesses, and a long-term mechanism for business-environment improvement.<sup>226</sup>

On 21 July 2020, an official with the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security said China has slashed social insurance contributions paid by enterprises amid efforts to boost the job market hit by COVID-19. The total premium reduction is expected to reach RMB1.9 trillion in 2020.<sup>227</sup>

On 17 August 2020, Premier Li Keqiang said at the State Council's executive meeting that a host of steps were adopted to increase fiscal funds for economic recovery and growth. The special transfer payment mechanism, designed to channel this year's increased fiscal funds straight to prefecture and county-level governments and directly benefit businesses and people, is an important step in supporting primary-level governments in maintaining stability in the six key areas and enhancing protections in another six priority areas. By early August, among the RMB2 trillion of increased fiscal funds, RMB300 billion had, in large measure, been used for tax and fee cuts; and out of the RMB1.7 trillion under the special transfer payment framework, apart from the reserved fund of a set proportion raised from the special treasury bonds for COVID-19 control, 97.8 per cent of the funds had been distributed to prefecture and county-level governments.<sup>228</sup>

On 31 August 2020, China's Ministry of Commerce issued the rules on handling complaints from foreign-invested enterprises, which will come into force on 1 October 2020, to improve the foreign investment complaint system. The new rules broaden the scope of complaints, making it clear that foreign-invested enterprises and foreign investors may apply to the complaint agencies for solutions to their legitimate rights and interests being infringed upon by administrative acts, or report problems to the complaint agencies in the investment environment, and suggest improving relevant policies and measures. The rules also improve the working mechanism for complaints, clarify the procedures, and strengthen the protection of rights and interests of foreign investors.<sup>229</sup>

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<sup>224</sup> China's central bank injects 30 bln yuan into market. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/14/content\\_76270764.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/14/content_76270764.htm)

<sup>225</sup> China releases regulation on ensuring timely payments to SMEs. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/15/content\\_76273882.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/15/content_76273882.htm)

<sup>226</sup> China unveils guideline to boost business environment. Access Date: 11 September 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/22/content\\_76298446.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/22/content_76298446.htm)

<sup>227</sup> China boosts employment with major cut in social insurance contributions. Access Date: 11 September 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/22/content\\_76299534.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-07/22/content_76299534.htm)

<sup>228</sup> China's increased fiscal funds to directly benefit businesses and the people. Access Date: 11 September 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-08/18/content\\_76609323.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-08/18/content_76609323.htm)

<sup>229</sup> China improves foreign investment complaint system. Access Date: 11 September 2020.

[http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/01/content\\_76656922.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/01/content_76656922.htm)

On 1 September 2020, the State Council announced the regulations in a bid to safeguard legitimate rights and interests of SMEs and improve the business environment. The regulations ban government departments, public institutions and large enterprises from defaulting on payments to SMEs in any disguised form or forcing unfair payment terms upon SMEs in contracts.<sup>230</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the PBC announced it would implement new financing flows to the manufacturing sector and SMEs.<sup>231</sup> This flexible and targeted monetary policy is part of the PBC's efforts to lower lending rates and financing costs through reform, supporting the real economy.<sup>232</sup>

On 3 October 2020, China announced its Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region has experienced further development through inclusive and green growth.<sup>233</sup> The main drivers behind this growth has been the “advancement in the sharing of basic public services and poverty reduction in the region, as well as further coordinated efforts in ecological environment improvement.”<sup>234</sup>

China has fully complied with the commitments and has used all policy tools to achieve both strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth, and safeguard against downside risk. The country has demonstrated outstanding resilience and mobilization capacity during the pandemic. Through clear planning and macro-level support, China's economy, especially SMEs have recovered rapidly in the second quarter.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zhenyu Xu*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 2 July 2019, the Ministry of Economy and Finance organized a meeting with representatives from the Paris financial marketplace to launch a new step in its commitment to addressing climate change and announced it was strengthening its commitments with a view to speeding up the transition to an economy that is compatible with international commitments to limit global warming.<sup>235</sup> The Ministry of Economy and Finance will continue working hard to increase the greening of the financial system.<sup>236</sup> The transparency framework applied by financial entities with respect to the climate will be

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<sup>230</sup> China to enforce regulations ensuring timely payments to SMEs. Access Date: 11 September 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-08/31/content\\_76652839.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-08/31/content_76652839.htm)

<sup>231</sup> China's central bank to support real economy, China.org.cn (Xinhua) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/29/content\\_76762306.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/29/content_76762306.htm)

<sup>232</sup> China's central bank to support real economy, China.org.cn (Xinhua) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/29/content\\_76762306.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-09/29/content_76762306.htm)

<sup>233</sup> Inclusive, green growth leads Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei regional development: Index report, China.org.cn (Xinhua) 3 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-10/03/content\\_76775476.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-10/03/content_76775476.htm)

<sup>234</sup> Inclusive, green growth leads Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei regional development: Index report, China.org.cn (Xinhua) 3 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-10/03/content\\_76775476.htm](http://www.china.org.cn/business/2020-10/03/content_76775476.htm)

<sup>235</sup> A further step towards greening the financial system, 2 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-further-step-towards-greening-the-financial-system>

<sup>236</sup> A further step towards greening the financial system, 2 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-further-step-towards-greening-the-financial-system>

amended under the energy and climate law, in light of the evaluation, which is due to be published this week, and to bring it into line with the new European framework.<sup>237</sup>

On 9 July 2019, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe delivered a speech at the Paris Europlace International Forum, which seeks to promote and develop the Paris financial centre.<sup>238</sup> Prime Minister Philippe took the opportunity to point out that “the French economy has become the most competitive and attractive in Europe” and that three challenges remain to be overcome: the reorganization of the European financial system, the financing of growth, and sustainable finance.<sup>239</sup> To give new impetus to capital markets, France, together with Germany and the Netherlands, launched a high-level group to make proposals. This will doubtless produce results, like the rebirth of Euronext, which has extended its federal model to other European stock exchanges.<sup>240</sup>

On 11 July 2019, the government passed a corporate tax rate cut from 33.3 per cent to 25 per cent by 2022.<sup>241</sup> Reducing the tax will provide more room for maneuver with regard to investment, innovation and success. It is also a key factor in the country’s attractiveness.<sup>242</sup>

On 11 July 2019, Parliament adopted a tax on the digital giants following a final vote by the Senate.<sup>243</sup> The new tax re-establishes fiscal justice by obliging this new economic model to obey the same rules as those applying to all other economic activities.<sup>244</sup> The tax is 3 per cent and is levied on turnover.<sup>245</sup> It only concerns companies whose turnover from provision of digital services exceeds EUR750 million at international level and EUR25 million at national level.<sup>246</sup>

On 2 September 2019, the Ministry of Economics and Finance and Japanese Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko exchanged views and shared information about the latest situation about the Alliance formed between Renault and Nissan.<sup>247</sup> They reaffirmed the strong support of both the French and the Japanese Governments to the Alliance formed between Renault and Nissan and encouraged both companies’ sincere discussion to enhance competitiveness of the Alliance and their shared wish to maintain and reinforce this winning cooperation.<sup>248</sup>

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<sup>237</sup> A further step towards greening the financial system, 2 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-further-step-towards-greening-the-financial-system>

<sup>238</sup> Paris Europlace: the challenges to overcome, 10 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/paris-europlace-the-challenges-to-overcome>

<sup>239</sup> Paris Europlace: the challenges to overcome, 10 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/paris-europlace-the-challenges-to-overcome>

<sup>240</sup> Paris Europlace: the challenges to overcome, 10 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/paris-europlace-the-challenges-to-overcome>

<sup>241</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>242</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>243</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>244</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>245</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>246</sup> Tax on digital services: an efficacious fiscal justice measure, 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/tax-on-digital-services-an-efficacious-fiscal-justice-measure>

<sup>247</sup> Automotive industry: Franco-Japanese cooperation, 2 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/automotive-industry-franco-japanese-cooperation>

<sup>248</sup> Automotive industry: Franco-Japanese cooperation, 2 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/automotive-industry-franco-japanese-cooperation>

On 16 September 2019, Prime Minister Philippe presented the government's ambition for logistics on a visit to Aulnay-sous-Bois (Seine-Saint-Denis), which was based in particular on new organisation between businesses, the State and various partners.<sup>249</sup> The logistics sector represents 10 per cent of France's gross domestic product (GDP) and 1.8 million jobs. France has four major international gateways: Le Havre, Marseille, Dunkirk and Roissy.<sup>250</sup> Logistics is a strategic sector for France.<sup>251</sup> In order to improve its competitiveness, the Prime Minister announced the creation of France Logistique, which is opening up a new method of organisation between businesses (carriers, logistics specialists, shippers), the state and partners (sectors, regions).<sup>252</sup> An interministerial logistics committee will meet annually.<sup>253</sup>

On 20 September 2019 the Franco-German Economic and Financial Council released a joint statement. On trade, it stated "we remain committed to supporting a proportionate and clear EU response, preventing escalation through fair and balanced negotiated solutions and asserting European rights under WTO [World Trade Organization] rules in case of trade sanctions," continuing by stating "it is essential to protect the EU's trade policy and sovereignty."<sup>254</sup>

On 16 October 2019 the French-German Declaration of Toulouse was released. It stated that "trade tensions should be addressed" and recommitted to "safeguard and strengthen the multilateral trading system with a reformed WTO at its core."<sup>255</sup> This included on improving rules, reinforcing monitoring and implementation mechanisms, and securing two-tiered dispute settlement system. It included encouraging the European Union to continue its engagement with the United States and other countries. It included a statement of support to update trade policy compatibility with EU climate policies, including social and environmental dimensions.

On 20 November 2019, the Council of Economic Analysis released a memo on reforming taxation.<sup>256</sup> According to the memo's estimate, EUR4.6 billion of corporate tax revenue is lost annually in France due to tax avoidance by French and foreign multinationals through tax havens.<sup>257</sup> The reform will impose a minimum tax rate on the profits of multinational and also require that a portion of the profits of multinationals be taxed where their consumers or internet users are located.<sup>258</sup>

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<sup>249</sup> France's ambition for logistics, 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>250</sup> France's ambition for logistics, 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>251</sup> France's ambition for logistics, 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>252</sup> France's ambition for logistics, 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>253</sup> France's ambition for logistics, 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>254</sup> 50th Franco-German Economic and Financial Council, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 20 September 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190919-50th-franco-german-economic-and-financial-council.html>.

<sup>255</sup> French-German Declaration of Toulouse, France's Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 16 October 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/germany/events/article/french-german-declaration-of-toulouse-16-oct-19>.

<sup>256</sup> International corporate tax, 20 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/international-corporate-tax>

<sup>257</sup> International corporate tax, 20 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/international-corporate-tax>

<sup>258</sup> International corporate tax, 20 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/international-corporate-tax>

On 13 January 2020, Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire and Minister of State for the Digital Sector Mounir Mahjoubi, met with France's institutional investors at their offices to officially set out their funding pledges for tech business and mark the starting point of their implementation phase.<sup>259</sup> The investors' pledges will be valid for both the private equity segment, by financing French venture capital funds, and listed investments, by awarding global tech mandates to asset managers based in France.<sup>260</sup>

On 19 January 2020, President Emmanuel Macron and US President Donald Trump agreed to avoid tariff escalation and to continue efforts to reach an international agreement under Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on taxing digital companies by the end of 2020.<sup>261</sup> By avoiding tariff escalation, the aim is to protect French companies, and particularly those in the agricultural sector.<sup>262</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Minister Le Maire and American Secretary of Treasury reached an agreement on a common global framework between France and the United States on digital tax.<sup>263</sup> Digital companies will pay their fair share of taxes in 2020.<sup>264</sup> France wishes to use this time to progress towards an international solution under the OECD based on two pillars of minimum tax (global minimum tax on companies) and digital tax.<sup>265</sup>

On 12 March 2020, President Macron announced in his speech that the government would set up a EUR45 billion fund to be used for cancelling of deferring social security contribution for companies, in order to prevent the bankruptcy of those affected by the stoppage or a sharp slowdown in their activities. In addition, a guarantee fund of EUR300 billion should make it possible to secure bank loans taken out by companies so as to avoid any risk of bankruptcy, particularly of small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>266</sup>

On 17 March 2020, Minister Le Maire said that France will pump EUR45 billion (USD50.22 billion) of crisis measures into the economy to help companies and workers, with output expected to contract 1 per cent this year due to the coronavirus outbreak. Le Maire said the package — worth nearly 2 per cent of GDP — would inevitably weigh on the public finances and push the national debt over 100 per cent of GDP.<sup>267</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister Le Maire unveiled various provisions for adaptation to European Union economic and financial law. Empowering the government in this way, as justified by this exceptional situation, will enable it to respond, where applicable within tight timescales. The need for the measures to be adopted will, however, be assessed in due course in light of the progress made in the

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<sup>259</sup> €6bn for tech companies, 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/eu6bn-for-tech-companies>

<sup>260</sup> €6bn for tech companies, 13 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/eu6bn-for-tech-companies>

<sup>261</sup> Digital tax, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/digital-tax>

<sup>262</sup> Digital tax, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/digital-tax>

<sup>263</sup> Digital tax, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/digital-tax>

<sup>264</sup> Digital tax, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/digital-tax>

<sup>265</sup> Digital tax, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/digital-tax>

<sup>266</sup> After declaring 'war' on COVID-19, France readies measures to uphold economy. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/after-declaring-war-on-covid-19-france-readies-measures-to-uphold-economy/>

<sup>267</sup> France to Mobilize 45 Billion Euros as Economy Slumps 1% in 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/03/17/world/europe/17reuters-health-coronavirus-france-economy.html>



ongoing negotiations; these measures will be taken in liaison with the European Commission, in keeping with its mandate.<sup>268</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Commission approved France's plan to guarantee up to EUR300 billion (USD323 billion) in state aid to ease the economic burden of the coronavirus. The EU body approved three measures by France to help its economy manage the impact of the coronavirus outbreak. These are expected to mobilize EUR300 billion of liquidity support for companies affected by this unprecedented situation.<sup>269</sup>

On 18 May 2020, President Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel came forward with a range of proposals in order to achieve the sustainable recovery of economy. A stimulus fund was proposed in the context of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), as well as an increase in the MFF concentrated on its first few years.<sup>270</sup>

On 28 June 2020, President Macron promised EUR15 billion of new funding to speed up the move to a greener economy. He also backed a proposal for a moratorium on new commercial zones in city outskirts and said he would consider bringing in a new law against "ecocide."<sup>271</sup>

On 13 July 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex, Health Minister Olivier Véran and trade union representatives signed an agreement to give health care workers across the nation EUR9 billion in pay raises in recognition of their work during the pandemic. Under the new measures, non-medical health care workers would also receive a pay rise of EUR208 per month.<sup>272</sup>

On 14 July 2020, Minister Le Maire announced a corporate income tax cut of EUR20 billion over the next two years. The tax cut would be conducted in two phases, EUR10 billion in 2021 and EUR10 billion in 2022.<sup>273</sup>

France has taken actions to both promote inclusive growth, as well as to safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zhenyu Xu*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 20 September 2019 the Franco-German Economic and Financial Council released a joint statement. On trade, it stated "we remain committed to supporting a proportionate and clear EU response, preventing escalation through fair and balanced negotiated solutions and asserting

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<sup>268</sup> Adaptation to European Union economic and financial law. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/adaptation-to-european-union-economic-and-financial-law>

<sup>269</sup> EU backs France's €300 billion in aid to businesses hurt by virus. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20200321-eu-backs-france-s-%E2%82%AC300-billion-in-aid-to-businesses-hurt-by-coronavirus>

<sup>270</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

<sup>271</sup> Macron pledges €15 billion to make France's economy greener. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.france24.com/en/20200629-macron-promises-to-make-france-s-economy-greener>

<sup>272</sup> France to give \$9 billion in pay raises to health care workers. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/14/economy/france-healthcare-workers-pay-intl/index.html>

<sup>273</sup> France to cut business taxes by 20 billion euros over two years. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-economy-tax/france-to-cut-business-taxes-by-20-billion-euros-over-two-years-idUSKCN24G2UH>

European rights under WTO [World Trade Organization] rules in case of trade sanctions,” continuing by stating “it is essential to protect the EU’s trade policy and sovereignty.”<sup>274</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Minister Altmaier hosted the third Industrial Conference in Berlin in order to discuss expanding Germany’s industrial competitiveness.<sup>275</sup> Germany announced that it must develop new technology and to “safeguard and strengthen growth, prosperity, and jobs.”<sup>276</sup> The conference was attended by 17 members representing civil society — industrial organizations, employers’ organizations and unions, alongside two government ministries.<sup>277</sup> Unions expressed the need to strengthen innovation within the industry and to take account the necessity of ecological restructuring.<sup>278</sup>

On 16 October 2019 the French-German Declaration of Toulouse was released. It stated that “trade tensions should be addressed” and recommitted to “safeguard and strengthen the multilateral trading system with a reformed WTO at its core.”<sup>279</sup> This included on improving rules, reinforcing monitoring and implementation mechanisms, and securing two-tiered dispute settlement system. It included encouraging the European Union to continue its engagement with the United States and other countries. It included a statement of support to update trade policy compatibility with EU climate policies, including social and environmental dimensions.

On 17 October 2019, Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier and Federal Minister of Education and Research Anja Karliczek signed the Franco-German Roadmap with the French Minister of Economy and Finance Bruno Le Maire and French Research Minister Frédérique Vidal.<sup>280</sup> The roadmap is for research and innovation on artificial intelligence. Minister Altmaier also agreed to cooperation with France on economic and fiscal policy within the new framework of the Aachen Treaty.<sup>281</sup>

On 6 November 2019, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Ulrich Nussbaum and the Japanese Vice Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Shigehiro

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<sup>274</sup> 50th Franco-German Economic and Financial Council, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, 20 September 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190919-50th-franco-german-economic-and-financial-council.html>.

<sup>275</sup> Boosting industrial competitiveness (Berlin) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190924-boosting-industrial-competitiveness.html>

<sup>276</sup> Boosting industrial competitiveness (Berlin) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190924-boosting-industrial-competitiveness.html>

<sup>277</sup> Boosting industrial competitiveness (Berlin) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190924-boosting-industrial-competitiveness.html>

<sup>278</sup> Boosting industrial competitiveness (Berlin) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20190924-boosting-industrial-competitiveness.html>

<sup>279</sup> French-German Declaration of Toulouse, France’s Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, 16 October 2019. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/germany/events/article/french-german-declaration-of-toulouse-16-oct-19>.

<sup>280</sup> Joint declarations from the 21<sup>st</sup> Franco-German Ministerial Council (Berlin) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191017-joint-declarations-from-the-21st-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

<sup>281</sup> Joint declarations from the 21<sup>st</sup> Franco-German Ministerial Council (Berlin) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191017-joint-declarations-from-the-21st-franco-german-ministerial-council.html>

Tanaka, signed a joint statement to strengthen cooperation on trade issues and to work towards renewable energies, artificial intelligence, and other forward-looking technologies.<sup>282</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Bundestag approved the 2020 Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy budget, which increased its funding by EUR1.022 billion from the 2019 budget.<sup>283</sup> Federal Minister Altmaier announced that part of the budget will be spent on new technologies for sustainable economic development, such as electric transportation, battery cell production, funding for small and medium enterprises, developing artificial intelligence, and providing support to regions affected by structural changes.<sup>284</sup>

On 1 March 2020, Head of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Hans-Eckhard Sommer announced that Germany will implement a new immigration law which will make it easier for skilled foreigners to work in Germany.<sup>285</sup> The new immigration law will remove the provision which states that those outside the European Union may take a job in Germany if there are no workers from the European Union that can take that job.<sup>286</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel has announced that the government will aid companies and employees affected by the coronavirus outbreak by investing EUR12.4 billion in a stimulus package.<sup>287</sup> In addition, the coalition relaxed regulations on short-term work compensation, allowing larger companies to attain aid to offset profits during forcible shut-downs.<sup>288</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the federal government finalized a EUR2 billion package to support start-ups and small enterprises in response to the economic difficulties caused by COVID-19.<sup>289</sup> The funding will safeguard jobs and encourage innovation, by connecting young companies with investors and providing support through venture capital funds.<sup>290</sup>

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<sup>282</sup> Germany and Japan intensify cooperation on trade issues and forward-looking technologies — signing of a joint statement (Berlin) November 6 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191106-germany-and-japan-intensify-cooperation-on-trade-issues-and-forward-looking-technologies.html>

<sup>283</sup> Minister Altmaier: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Budget is a Good Signal for Technologies of the Future (Berlin) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191129-altmaier-federal-ministry-for-economic-affairs-and-energy-budget-is-a-good-signal-for-technologies-of-the-future.html>

<sup>284</sup> Minister Altmaier: Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Budget is a Good Signal for Technologies of the Future (Berlin) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/20191129-altmaier-federal-ministry-for-economic-affairs-and-energy-budget-is-a-good-signal-for-technologies-of-the-future.html>

<sup>285</sup> Germany's BAMF looks to southern Europe for skilled labor (Bonn) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germanys-bamf-looks-to-southern-europe-for-skilled-labor/a-52225546>

<sup>286</sup> Germany sets out new law to find skilled immigrants (Bonn) 20 November 2018. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-sets-out-new-law-to-find-skilled-immigrants/a-46381146>

<sup>287</sup> Germany boosts investments to bolster economy amid virus fallout (Berlin) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/03/09/germany-boosts-investments-to-bolster-economy-amid-virus-fallout.html>

<sup>288</sup> Germany boosts investments to bolster economy amid virus fallout (Berlin) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/03/09/germany-boosts-investments-to-bolster-economy-amid-virus-fallout.html>

<sup>289</sup> €2 billion package of measures for start-ups finalised, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200430-euro-2-billion-package-of-measures-for-start-ups-finalised.html>

<sup>290</sup> €2 billion package of measures for start-ups finalised, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmw.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200430-euro-2-billion-package-of-measures-for-start-ups-finalised.html>

On 29 June 2020, the German Bundestag and Bundersat passed the Coronavirus Tax Assistance Act worth roughly EUR130 billion for stable economic recovery in light of COVID-19.<sup>291</sup> The stimulus package's top priorities are: (1) "Boost demand, safeguard jobs and provide targeted stabilisation"; (2) "Promote investment by businesses and local authorities"; and (3) "Invest in a future-friendly Germany."<sup>292</sup> Specific components of the package include: standard VAT rate cuts from 19 per cent to 16 per cent, reduced VAT rate cuts from 7 per cent to 5 per cent, childcare aid, sustainable infrastructure investment and assistance for small and medium-sized businesses, among other things.<sup>293</sup>

On 1 July 2020, Germany took over the Presidency of the Council of the EU, in which Altmaier stated that the European economy must maintain economic cohesion and competitiveness when emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>294</sup> In addition, Altmaier stated his support for the REACT-EU, the Recovery Assistance for Cohesion and the Territories of Europe, a package of EUR55 billion to support the recovery of the European economy.<sup>295</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Minister Altmaier announced a five-point package of measures to protect German exporters and banks in response to the obstruction of global supply chains induced by COVID-19.<sup>296</sup> The measures involve offering export financing support, referring to smaller advance payments and allowing extensions for repayments.<sup>297</sup> The measures include offering simplified cover for export financing for larger foreign importers and reducing fees for Hermes Guarantees/covers.<sup>298</sup> Hermes

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<sup>291</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

<sup>292</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

<sup>293</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

<sup>294</sup> "Emerging stronger from the crisis together" – Minister Altmaier presents his priorities for the German Presidency, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200701-emerging-stronger-from-the-crisis-together-minister-altmaier-presents-his-priorities-for-the-german-council-presidency.html>

<sup>295</sup> Minister Altmaier stresses the important role of the EU Structural Funds for crisis management and cohesion in Europe, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200615-altmaier-stresses-the-important-role-of-the-eu-structural-funds-for-crisis-management-and-cohesion-in-europe.html>

<sup>296</sup> Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>

<sup>297</sup> Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>

<sup>298</sup> Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>

covers are export credit guarantees provided by the German government, worth EUR20 billion annually, to protect German exporters from nonpayment by foreign buyers.<sup>299</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Minister Altmaier via online conference presented the trade priorities of Germany at the European Parliament Committee on International Trade.<sup>300</sup> In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, Altmaier stated the importance of multilateralism, diverse and robust international supply chains, and free trade.<sup>301</sup>

Germany has taken action in promoting sustainable growth and trade with nations outside of Europe and has worked towards minimizing downside risk.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mathuja Jeyakumar*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 4 August 2019, the state government of Jharkhand announced a free refill-scheme for liquified petroleum gas (LPG) for families living below the poverty line.<sup>302</sup> The scheme aims to replace hazardous cooking fuels used in rural India with clean and efficient alternatives.<sup>303</sup>

On 4 August 2019, the state of Western Odisha announced a raise in the average number of days of employment for citizens under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme as well as an upgrade of welfare benefits.<sup>304</sup> In doing so, it hopes to tackle poverty migration and improve labour market access for marginalized communities.<sup>305</sup>

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<sup>299</sup> Minister Altmaier: We are supporting German exports as an important pillar of our economy based on a 5-point package of measures, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200707-altmaier-we-are-supporting-german-exports-as-an-important-pillar-of-our-economy-based-on-a-5-point-package-of-measures.html>

<sup>300</sup> Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier presents trade policy priorities under German Council Presidency at European Parliament Committee on International Trade, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 3 Sept 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/09/20200903-altmaier-presents-trade-policy-priorities-under-german-council-presidency-at-european-parliament-committee-on-international-trade.html>

<sup>301</sup> Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier presents trade policy priorities under German Council Presidency at European Parliament Committee on International Trade, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 3 Sept 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/09/20200903-altmaier-presents-trade-policy-priorities-under-german-council-presidency-at-european-parliament-committee-on-international-trade.html>

<sup>302</sup> PM Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries in Jharkhand to get free LPG refill, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-ujjwala-yojana-beneficiaries-in-jharkhand-to-get-free-lpg-refill/article28813147.ece>

<sup>303</sup> PM Ujjwala Yojana beneficiaries in Jharkhand to get free LPG refill, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-ujjwala-yojana-beneficiaries-in-jharkhand-to-get-free-lpg-refill/article28813147.ece>

<sup>304</sup> Odisha attempts to improve work participation under MGNREGS, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-attempts-to-improve-work-participation-under-mgnregs/article28810891.ece>

<sup>305</sup> Odisha attempts to improve work participation under MGNREGS, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-attempts-to-improve-work-participation-under-mgnregs/article28810891.ece>

On 27 August 2019, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel announced a minimum income guarantee scheme for 20 per cent of the poorest families of the state.<sup>306</sup> The scheme attempts to reduce poverty and remonetise the economy.<sup>307</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the government announced a plan to peg wages for workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to inflation.<sup>308</sup> The measure is expected to increase wages, thereby increasing purchasing power and reviving demand in rural areas.<sup>309</sup>

On 19 September 2019 Chief Minister of Karnataka B.S. Yediyurappa announced to establish an exclusive body to boost innovation in information technology.<sup>310</sup> He announced steps to strengthen conditions for a strong start-up culture in the state, thereby promoting fast and inclusive growth.<sup>311</sup>

On 20 September 2019, Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman announced the reduction of the corporate tax rate for domestic firms and new manufacturing units by 10 to 12 per cent.<sup>312</sup> The policy aims to increase investment, leading to more jobs and economic activity in India.<sup>313</sup>

On 15 October 2019, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a financial support scheme for farmers, stressing that the condition of farmers was a vital sign of economic growth and progress.<sup>314</sup> He also announced that the government would run shops to market subsidised seeds, fertilizers and pesticides as well as offer cold storage and processing facilities, thereby aiming at improving the productivity and living conditions of farmers.<sup>315</sup>

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<sup>306</sup> Chattisgarh to launch a pilot project on NYAY scheme, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/chattisgarh-to-launch-a-pilot-project-on-nyay-scheme/article29262099.ece>

<sup>307</sup> Chattisgarh to launch a pilot project on NYAY scheme, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/chattisgarh-to-launch-a-pilot-project-on-nyay-scheme/article29262099.ece>

<sup>308</sup> Government to peg MGNREGA wages to inflation in bid to hike incomes, The Hindu (Chennai), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-to-peg-mgnrega-wages-to-inflation-in-bid-to-hike-incomes/article29443145.ece>

<sup>309</sup> Government to peg MGNREGA wages to inflation in bid to hike incomes, The Hindu (Chennai), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-to-peg-mgnrega-wages-to-inflation-in-bid-to-hike-incomes/article29443145.ece>

<sup>310</sup> Karnataka to set up exclusive body to boost innovation, The Hindu (Chennai), 19 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-to-set-up-exclusive-body-to-boost-innovation/article29462048.ece>

<sup>311</sup> Karnataka to set up exclusive body to boost innovation, The Hindu (Chennai), 19 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/karnataka-to-set-up-exclusive-body-to-boost-innovation/article29462048.ece>

<sup>312</sup> Govt cuts corporate tax to spur investment, jobs, The Hindu (Chennai), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/govt-cuts-corporate-tax-to-spur-investment-jobs/article29469500.ece>

<sup>313</sup> Govt cuts corporate tax to spur investment, jobs, The Hindu (Chennai), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/govt-cuts-corporate-tax-to-spur-investment-jobs/article29469500.ece>

<sup>314</sup> A.P. gov. launches Rythu Bharosa scheme that provides ₹13,500 to farmers, The Hindu (Chennai), 15 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/no-eligible-farmer-will-be-left-out-jagan/article29694153.ece>

<sup>315</sup> A.P. gov. launches Rythu Bharosa scheme that provides ₹13,500 to farmers, The Hindu (Chennai), 15 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/no-eligible-farmer-will-be-left-out-jagan/article29694153.ece>

On 28 October 2019, the Supreme Court approved the raise of minimum wages adopted by the state government in Delhi.<sup>316</sup> The policy attempts to tackle recession and poverty in the capital.<sup>317</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the government of Andhra Pradesh decided to raise the income limit for the Below Poverty Line category.<sup>318</sup> Parallel to this, it also announced to introduce a new scheme to provide financial assistance for women aged 45 to 60.<sup>319</sup>

On 1 December 2019, Governor of Maharashtra B.S. Koshiyari announced plans to ensure that 80 per cent of jobs in the private sector are reserved for locals.<sup>320</sup> The aim of this law is to reduce unemployment in the state.<sup>321</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the Delhi Assembly passed a bill to set up a skill and entrepreneurship university.<sup>322</sup> Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the university will create jobs and increase economic productivity.<sup>323</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the government announced its vision of providing all villages in the country with broadband access by 2022.<sup>324</sup> Besides closing the digital divide and ensuring access and inclusion of all parts of society, this also entails investments from various stakeholders.<sup>325</sup>

On 22 December 2019, Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the Nethanna Nestham scheme, under which 85,000 handloom weaver families across Andhra Pradesh will be receiving

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<sup>316</sup> 55 lakh workers to benefit from increased minimum wages notified by Delhi govt: Arvind Kejriwal, The Hindu (Chennai), 28 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/55-lakh-workers-to-benefit-from-increased-minimum-wages-notified-by-delhi-govt-arvind-kejriwal/article29813006.ece>

<sup>317</sup> 55 lakh workers to benefit from increased minimum wages notified by Delhi govt: Arvind Kejriwal, The Hindu (Chennai), 28 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/55-lakh-workers-to-benefit-from-increased-minimum-wages-notified-by-delhi-govt-arvind-kejriwal/article29813006.ece>

<sup>318</sup> Andhra Pradesh to raise income limit for BPL category, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-to-raise-income-limit-for-bpl-category/article30098727.ece>

<sup>319</sup> Andhra Pradesh to raise income limit for BPL category, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/andhra-pradesh-to-raise-income-limit-for-bpl-category/article30098727.ece>

<sup>320</sup> Maharashtra to ensure 80% quota in private jobs for locals, says Koshiyari, The Hindu (Chennai), 01 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maharashtra-governor-bhagat-singh-koshiyari-addresses-the-joint-sitting-of-legislature/article30129998.ece>

<sup>321</sup> Maharashtra to ensure 80% quota in private jobs for locals, says Koshiyari, The Hindu (Chennai), 01 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/maharashtra-governor-bhagat-singh-koshiyari-addresses-the-joint-sitting-of-legislature/article30129998.ece>

<sup>322</sup> Assembly passes Bill to set up skill and entrepreneurship university, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 December 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/assembly-passes-bill-to-set-up-skill-and-entrepreneurship-university/article30153705.ece>

<sup>323</sup> Assembly passes Bill to set up skill and entrepreneurship university, The Hindu (Chennai), 04 December 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/assembly-passes-bill-to-set-up-skill-and-entrepreneurship-university/article30153705.ece>

<sup>324</sup> Govt. aims to provide broadband access to all villages by 2022, The Hindu (Chennai), 17 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-unveils-7-lakh-cr-national-broadband-mission/article30332256.ece>

<sup>325</sup> Govt. aims to provide broadband access to all villages by 2022, The Hindu (Chennai), 17 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-unveils-7-lakh-cr-national-broadband-mission/article30332256.ece>

financial aid for the duration of five years.<sup>326</sup> This is part of the government's commitment to uplift the lower classes.<sup>327</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the state government of Kerala announced it was readying a scheme to extend wage subsidies to new investors for a five-year period based on the number of jobs they create.<sup>328</sup> Special attention will be given to female employees.<sup>329</sup> The measure aims to tackle unemployment at the State.<sup>330</sup>

On 25 January 2020, Home Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai announced that the State government wanted to promote integrated development of the coastal districts, which a special focus on fisheries and harbours as well as infrastructure development to connect the hinterlands with the coast.<sup>331</sup> These aim of these measures would be to improve the export capacity of the State and ultimately enhance economic development.<sup>332</sup>

On 1 February 2020, during the presentation of the budget, Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman introduced planned transport infrastructure investments of INR1.7 million. The planned investments include the development of a solar power capacity for Indian Railways and the introduction of a Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway as well as a suburban rail project in Bengaluru. The budget plan also contained plans to develop five new smart cities and promote industry and commerce with INR273 billion by 2021. Additionally, Minister Sitharaman proposed to raise fish production.<sup>333</sup>

On 2 February 2020, the government introduced a proposal to remove the dividend distribution tax.<sup>334</sup> The new tax regime is expected to spur investment in the capital market especially by lower income individuals.<sup>335</sup>

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<sup>326</sup> Jagan launches scheme for handloom weavers, The Hindu (Chennai), 22 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/jagan-launches-scheme-for-handloom-weavers/article30369202.ece>

<sup>327</sup> Jagan launches scheme for handloom weavers, The Hindu (Chennai), 22 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/jagan-launches-scheme-for-handloom-weavers/article30369202.ece>

<sup>328</sup> Wage subsidy for new investors soon: CM, The Hindu (Chennai), 09 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wage-subsidy-for-new-investors-soon-cm/article30524947.ece>

<sup>329</sup> Wage subsidy for new investors soon: CM, The Hindu (Chennai), 09 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wage-subsidy-for-new-investors-soon-cm/article30524947.ece>

<sup>330</sup> Wage subsidy for new investors soon: CM, The Hindu (Chennai), 09 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/wage-subsidy-for-new-investors-soon-cm/article30524947.ece>

<sup>331</sup> Minister Bommai says State govt. will promote integrated development of coastal districts, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/minister-bommai-says-state-govt-will-promote-integrated-development-of-coastal-districts/article30660866.ece>

<sup>332</sup> Minister Bommai says State govt. will promote integrated development of coastal districts, The Hindu (Chennai), 27 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Mangalore/minister-bommai-says-state-govt-will-promote-integrated-development-of-coastal-districts/article30660866.ece>

<sup>333</sup> Budget 2020 live updates | New scheme to bring down direct tax disputes, The Hindu (Chennai), 01 February 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/2020-union-budget-live-updates/article30709479.ece>

<sup>334</sup> New dividend distribution tax framework would encourage investments, debt MFs: CBDT, The Hindu (Chennai), 02 February 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-ddt-framework-would-encourage-investments-debt-mfs-cbdt/article30720970.ece>

<sup>335</sup> New dividend distribution tax framework would encourage investments, debt MFs: CBDT, The Hindu (Chennai), 02 February 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-ddt-framework-would-encourage-investments-debt-mfs-cbdt/article30720970.ece>



On 6 February 2020, the Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep its repo rates unchanged.<sup>336</sup> It did so in reaction to accelerating inflation, with some analysis even speaking of stagflation.<sup>337</sup>

On 8 February 2020, Kerala Minister of Finance T.M. Thomas Isaac announced that 5,000 kilometres of roads will be completed in the state until 2021.<sup>338</sup> The 2020-2021 budget also contains plans to invest in waterway and railway development.<sup>339</sup>

On 8 February 2020, Kerala Finance Minister Isaac announced an INR3.2 billion allocation in the state budget for the tourism sector.<sup>340</sup> The funds will support existing tourist destinations as well as new projects in maintaining growth.<sup>341</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the RBI announced that banks are now allowed to deduct the equivalent amount of incremental credit disbursed by them as retail loans and loans to micro, small and medium enterprises over and above the outstanding level of credit to these segments from their net demand and time liabilities for maintenance of the cash reserve ratio.<sup>342</sup> This step is part of RBI's strategy to facilitate the flow of bank credit to productive sectors that are likely to have multiplier effects and hence to support economic growth.<sup>343</sup>

On 11 February 2020, Punjab's Mahatma Gandhi State Institute of Public Administration and the National Institute of Smart Government signed a memorandum of understanding for capacity building on digital government services in Punjab.<sup>344</sup> It covers the sharing of infrastructure as well as the training of civil servants.<sup>345</sup>

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<sup>336</sup> Indian central bank holds rate steady as expected amid accelerating inflation. Reuters (Toronto), 06 February 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/indian-central-bank-holds-rates-steady-as-expected-amid-accelerating-inflation-2020-02-0>

<sup>337</sup> India's central bank holds steady, seeks balance growth and inflation risks, Gulf News (Dubai), 06 February 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://gulfnews.com/business/indias-central-bank-holds-steady-seeks-balance-growth-and-inflation-risks-1.69532345>

<sup>338</sup> 5,000 km of roads to be completed next fiscal year, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 February 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/5000-km-of-roads-to-be-completed-next-fiscal/article30766316.ece>

<sup>339</sup> 5,000 km of roads to be completed next fiscal year, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 February 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/5000-km-of-roads-to-be-completed-next-fiscal/article30766316.ece>

<sup>340</sup> Thatwamasi circuit, museums in Alappuzha among projects, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-budget-cbl-to-drive-tourism-marketing/article30766293.ece>

<sup>341</sup> Thatwamasi circuit, museums in Alappuzha among projects, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-budget-cbl-to-drive-tourism-marketing/article30766293.ece>

<sup>342</sup> Incentivising Bank Credit to Specific Sectors — Exemption from CRR Maintenance, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 10 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11807&Mode=0>

<sup>343</sup> Incentivising Bank Credit to Specific Sectors — Exemption from CRR Maintenance, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 10 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11807&Mode=0>

<sup>344</sup> MoU signed for capacity building, The Hindu (Chennai), 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mou-signed-for-capacity-building/article30788414.ece>

<sup>345</sup> MoU signed for capacity building, The Hindu (Chennai), 11 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mou-signed-for-capacity-building/article30788414.ece>

On 12 February 2020, Kerala Minister for Women and Child Development K.K. Shylaja announced the set-up of fifteen creches for the children of agricultural workers.<sup>346</sup> The pilot project is intended to ensure the development well-being of disadvantaged children.<sup>347</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the Confederation of Indian Industry opened a new chapter in Karnataka.<sup>348</sup> Chapter chair K. Prakash Rao said the chapter would dedicate its work to develop the region through work on production excellence, finance and taxation, industry–academia interaction, information technology, basic infrastructure and transportation and tourism.<sup>349</sup>

On 15 February 2020, Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam announced that the State Government will launch the Chennai City Partnership in cooperation with the World Bank.<sup>350</sup> The partnership comprises urban mobility, water resilience and urban governance and is intended to spur the sustainable growth of Chennai and the surrounding region.<sup>351</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the government of Tamil Nadu announced it would reduce staff and bureaucracy in an effort to enhance the productivity of government departments and thereby free up resources for development programmes.<sup>352</sup>

On 17 February 2020, during the inauguration of the BioAsia 2020 conference on the life sciences sector, Telangana Industries and IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao explained that the Telangana government intends to support the state capital Hyderabad’s emergence as a major hub for life sciences through the government’s Life Sciences Grid.<sup>353</sup> It is a planned network of infrastructure, stakeholders, skilled workforce and efficient processes in support of the life sciences sector.<sup>354</sup>

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<sup>346</sup> Kerala plans to establish 15 anganwadi-cum-creches, The Hindu (Chennai), 12 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/state-plans-to-establish-15anganwadi-cum-creches/article30796058.ece>

<sup>347</sup> Kerala plans to establish 15 anganwadi-cum-creches, The Hindu (Chennai), 12 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Thiruvananthapuram/state-plans-to-establish-15anganwadi-cum-creches/article30796058.ece>

<sup>348</sup> CII opens Mangaluru chapter to concentrate on region’s growth, The Hindu (Chennai), 12 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cii-opens-mangaluru-chapter-to-concentrate-on-regions-growth/article30796310.ece>

<sup>349</sup> CII opens Mangaluru chapter to concentrate on region’s growth, The Hindu (Chennai), 12 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cii-opens-mangaluru-chapter-to-concentrate-on-regions-growth/article30796310.ece>

<sup>350</sup> Plan comprises urban mobility, water resilience, urban governance and finance, The Hindu (Chennai), 15 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/a-billion-dollar-project-for-sustainable-growth-of-the-city/article30825109.ece>

<sup>351</sup> Plan comprises urban mobility, water resilience, urban governance and finance, The Hindu (Chennai), 15 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/a-billion-dollar-project-for-sustainable-growth-of-the-city/article30825109.ece>

<sup>352</sup> The Staff Rationalisation Committee’s report, submitted to the Chief Minister last week, looks at rationalising revenue expenditures among other aspects, The Hindu (Chennai), 17 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-to-implement-rationalisation-committee-recommendations/article30840353.ece>

<sup>353</sup> Eyes doubling of enterprise value to \$100 billion, Minister tells BioAsia meet, The Hindu (Chennai), 17 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/ts-to-give-fillip-to-life-sciences-sector/article30844596.ece>

<sup>354</sup> Eyes doubling of enterprise value to \$100 billion, Minister tells BioAsia meet, The Hindu (Chennai), 17 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/ts-to-give-fillip-to-life-sciences-sector/article30844596.ece>

On 21 February 2020, the Kerala State Government opened a Custom's Electronic Data Interchange clearance facility at Beypore Port.<sup>355</sup> The facility is expected to increase business growth and promote economic growth in the area and is part of a government initiative to promote smaller ports.<sup>356</sup>

On 25 February 2020, Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport announced the introduction of new routes to destinations in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), thereby promoting tourism and trade between the CIS and India.<sup>357</sup>

On 25 February 2020, Rajasthan State Industries Commissioner Muktanand Agrawal announced the development of an e-platform for handicraft and handmade items.<sup>358</sup> The platform will facilitate the direct access of artisans to the domestic and foreign markets and hence increase their revenues.<sup>359</sup>

On 26 February 2020, the government approved setting up a National Technical Textiles Mission for the period between 2020/21 and 2023/24.<sup>360</sup> Through investing in market development, market promotion, international technical collaborations and investment promotions, the Mission aims at improving India's global market position in technical textiles.<sup>361</sup>

On 1 March 2020, Tamil Nadu Industries Minister M.C. Sampath declared that the Empowered Committee issued clearance to 36 investment projects for Tamil Nadu, which will provide employment opportunities for up to 23,000 people.<sup>362</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the Tamil Nadu State Office of Indian Oil Corporation Limited held a conclave to discuss the possible applications of LPG.<sup>363</sup> Exploring its use is part of India's efforts to counter climate change in the energy sector.<sup>364</sup>

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<sup>355</sup> Service will facilitate quicker movement of containers by eliminating paperwork, The Hindu (Chennai), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/customs-e-clearance-facility-getting-ready-at-beypore-port/article30875145.ece>

<sup>356</sup> Service will facilitate quicker movement of containers by eliminating paperwork, The Hindu (Chennai), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kozhikode/customs-e-clearance-facility-getting-ready-at-beypore-port/article30875145.ece>

<sup>357</sup> Mumbai to get more flights to CIS countries, The Hindu (Chennai), 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-to-get-more-flights-to-cis-countries/article30908229.ece>

<sup>358</sup> First e-platform for handicraft products being developed, The Hindu (Chennai), 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/first-e-platform-for-handicraft-products-being-developed/article30907657.ece>

<sup>359</sup> First e-platform for handicraft products being developed, The Hindu (Chennai), 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/first-e-platform-for-handicraft-products-being-developed/article30907657.ece>

<sup>360</sup> The ₹1,480-crore Mission, to be implemented from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024, aims at positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles, The Hindu (Chennai), 26 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-approves-national-technical-textiles-mission/article30921634.ece#>

<sup>361</sup> The ₹1,480-crore Mission, to be implemented from 2020-2021 to 2023-2024, aims at positioning India as a global leader in technical textiles, The Hindu (Chennai), 26 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-approves-national-technical-textiles-mission/article30921634.ece#>

<sup>362</sup> In just two meetings, panel has cleared 36 projects: M.C. Sampath, The Hindu (Chennai), 01 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/in-just-two-meetings-panel-has-cleared-36-projects-mc-sampath/article30953961.ece>

<sup>363</sup> 'Use of liquid energy sources should be improved to tackle climate change', The Hindu (Chennai), 03 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/use-of-liquid-energy-sources-should-be-improved-to-tackle-climate-change/article30966646.ece>

<sup>364</sup> 'Use of liquid energy sources should be improved to tackle climate change', The Hindu (Chennai), 03 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/use-of-liquid-energy-sources-should-be-improved-to-tackle-climate-change/article30966646.ece>

On 5 March 2020, the government of Karnataka announced the allocation of INR5 billion for the state capital's suburban rail.<sup>365</sup> Additionally, it opened the Namma Metro for private investments in the form of public-private partnerships.<sup>366</sup>

On 8 March 2020, Telangana Finance Minister T. Harish Rao announced that 58.5 million farmers with outstanding loans will be cleared of their burden as part of a loan waiver program of the government, following news that state revenues were on a steady growth rate of 6 per cent.<sup>367</sup>

On 9 March 2020, Telangana Finance Minister Rao announced a fund of INR100 billion to develop the area of Hyderabad.<sup>368</sup>

On 10 March 2020, the Department of Tourism of Tamil Nadu held a workshop with tourism-related small-scale industries and businesses.<sup>369</sup> The workshop aimed at identifying and integrating entrepreneurs as well as offering training and guidance for improving their livelihood.<sup>370</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the RBI conducted open market operations (OMO) in the form of purchase of a total of INR100 billion of government securities.<sup>371</sup> The goal of the auction is to ensure the liquidity and stability, as well as the normal functioning, of all market segments.<sup>372</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the RBI conducted an OMO purchase auction, accepting a total amount of INR150 billion.<sup>373</sup> The auction aimed at ensuring the normal functioning of all market segments with adequate liquidity and turnover.<sup>374</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the RBI conducted an OMO purchase auction, totalling INR150 billion, in order to further stabilise the financial system and ensure systemic liquidity.<sup>375</sup>

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<sup>365</sup> Suburban rail get ₹500 crore; Namma Metro to be opened for private investment, The Hindu (Chennai), 05 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/suburban-rail-gets-500-crore-namma-metro-to-be-opened-for-private-investment/article30994007.ece>

<sup>366</sup> Suburban rail get ₹500 crore; Namma Metro to be opened for private investment, The Hindu (Chennai), 05 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/suburban-rail-gets-500-crore-namma-metro-to-be-opened-for-private-investment/article30994007.ece>

<sup>367</sup> State on growth path with six% hike in State's Own Revenue, says Finance Minister, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/no-new-taxes-proposed-in-state-budget-says-harish-rao/article31016361.ece>

<sup>368</sup> ₹10,000 cr. for city urban agglomeration, The Hindu (Chennai), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/10000-cr-for-city-urban-agglomeration/article31018388.ece>

<sup>369</sup> Workshop on improving tourism sector, The Hindu (Chennai), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/workshop-on-improving-tourism-sector/article31033594.ece>

<sup>370</sup> Workshop on improving tourism sector, The Hindu (Chennai), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Madurai/workshop-on-improving-tourism-sector/article31033594.ece>

<sup>371</sup> RBI Announces OMO Purchase of Government of India Dated Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 20 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49545](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49545)

<sup>372</sup> RBI Announces OMO Purchase of Government of India Dated Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49534](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49534)

<sup>373</sup> Results of OMO Purchase auction held on March 24, 2020 and Settlement on March 26, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49567](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49567)

<sup>374</sup> RBI Announces OMO Purchase of Government of India Dated Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 20 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49545](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49545)

<sup>375</sup> Results of OMO Purchase auction held on March 26, 2020 and Settlement on March 27, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 26 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49574](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49574)

On 27 March 2020, the RBI announced to reduce the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of all banks by 100 basis points to 3 per cent of net demand and time liabilities.<sup>376</sup> This decision attempts to preserve the liquidity of banks amidst the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>377</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the RBI conducted a three-year Targeted Long Term Repo Operation (TLTRO), which injected a total of INR250 billion into the financial system.<sup>378</sup> The TLTRO auction had the aim to ease pressures on cash flows that the financial sector is experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>379</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the RBI announced an increase of the Way and Means Advances (WMA) limit of states by 60 per cent over and above the levels of March 31, 2020.<sup>380</sup> With this measure, it attempts to support states in their COVID-19 containment and mitigation efforts and to enable them to better plan their market borrowings.<sup>381</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the RBI conducted its second TLTRO for a notified amount of INR 250 billion to further support the liquidity of banks and the normal functioning of financial markets despite the disruptions of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>382</sup>

On 13 April 2020, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to reduce the policy interest rate by 75 basis points to 4.4 per cent, in an attempt to support economic activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>383</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the RBI India conducted special OMOs involving the simultaneous sale and purchase of government securities for INR100 billion.<sup>384</sup> The action attempted to promote and sustain systemic liquidity and hence ensure the stability of the financial market.<sup>385</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the RBI announced a special liquidity facility for mutual funds to ease liquidity strains on mutual funds.<sup>386</sup> The measure is intended to prevent potential contagious effects, as liquidity strains on mutual funds intensified.<sup>387</sup>

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<sup>376</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582)

<sup>377</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582)

<sup>378</sup> Results of 3-year Targeted Long Term Repo Operation (TLTRO), March 27, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49584](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49584)

<sup>379</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49582)

<sup>380</sup> Review of Limits of Way and Means Advances (WMA) of States/Uts, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 17 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49684](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49684)

<sup>381</sup> Review of Limits of Way and Means Advances (WMA) of States/Uts, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 17 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49684](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49684)

<sup>382</sup> Result of 3-year Targeted Long Term Repo Operation (TLTRO), April 3, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 03 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49625](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49625)

<sup>383</sup> RBI says it'll take all steps to fight economic fallout of COVID-19, The Hindu (Chennai), 13 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-says-itll-take-all-steps-to-fight-economic-fallout-of-covid-19/article31329529.ece>

<sup>384</sup> RBI Announces Special Open Market Operations (OMO) of Simultaneous Purchase and Sale of Government of India Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 23 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49712](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49712)

<sup>385</sup> RBI Announces Special Open Market Operations (OMO) of Simultaneous Purchase and Sale of Government of India Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 23 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49712](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49712)

On 12 May 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a cumulative economic stimulus package worth INR 2 trillion in order to provide relief to a number of segments of the economy.<sup>388</sup> The package comprises an INR1.7 trillion package of free food grains and cash for the poor for three months as well as an INR5.6 trillion stimulus to be provided through monetary policy measures taken by the RBI.<sup>389</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the MPC decided to reduce the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility by 40 basis points to 4.0 per cent from 4.40 per cent.<sup>390</sup> In accordance, it reduced the marginal standing facility rate and the bank rate to 4.25 per cent from 4.65 per cent, as well as the reverse repo rate to 3.35 per cent from 3.75 per cent.<sup>391</sup> These decisions have been taken in order to revive growth, mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure that inflation remains within the target.<sup>392</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the RBI adopted a range of measures to improve the functioning of markets, to support exports and imports, to ease financial stress and to facilitate debt management during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>393</sup> These measures include, inter alia, a refinancing facility worth INR 150,000,000,000 for the Small Industries Development Bank of India, a Liquidity Facility of for the Export-Impact Bank of India, and relaxing the rules governing withdrawal from the consolidated sinking fund of state governments.<sup>394</sup>

On 29 May 2020, the state government of Odisha introduced an INR170 million special livelihood intervention package that targets the support of rural economies.<sup>395</sup> The package will support livelihoods of the rural population that has been hit hard by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>396</sup>

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<sup>386</sup> Reserve Bank Extends Regulatory Benefits under SLF-MF Scheme, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 30 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49746](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49746)

<sup>387</sup> Reserve Bank Extends Regulatory Benefits under SLF-MF Scheme, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 30 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49746](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49746)

<sup>388</sup> Finance Minister announces 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of economic stimulus, The Hindu (Chennai), 14 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/businesslive-14-may-2020/article31579568.ece>

<sup>389</sup> Finance Minister announces 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of economic stimulus, The Hindu (Chennai), 14 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/businesslive-14-may-2020/article31579568.ece>

<sup>390</sup> Minutes of the Monetary Policy Meeting May 20 to 22, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 05 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909)

<sup>391</sup> Minutes of the Monetary Policy Meeting May 20 to 22, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 05 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909)

<sup>392</sup> Minutes of the Monetary Policy Meeting May 20 to 22, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 05 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49909)

<sup>393</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 22 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49844](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49844)

<sup>394</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 22 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49844](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=49844)

<sup>395</sup> Odisha unveils ₹17,000 cr livelihood package, The Hindu (Chennai), 29 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-unveils-17000-cr-livelihood-package/article31704240.ece>

<sup>396</sup> Odisha unveils ₹17,000 cr livelihood package, The Hindu (Chennai), 29 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/odisha-unveils-17000-cr-livelihood-package/article31704240.ece>

On 24 June 2020, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a INR150 million Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund.<sup>397</sup> The fund seeks to promote private investment, especially by small enterprises, into dairy and meat processing.<sup>398</sup> As almost 50-60 per cent of the final value of dairy output flows back to farmers, it will have a direct impact on farmer's income and will result in direct and indirect livelihood creation for 35 lakh people.<sup>399</sup>

On 3 August 2020, the state government of Andhra Pradesh signed a memorandum of understanding with several multinational enterprises to conduct skill-based training programmes for women aged between 45 and 60 years in rural areas.<sup>400</sup> In addition, the state government introduced a scheme under which women will receive financial assistance for the duration of four years. Both initiatives are intended to promote women empowerment, while simultaneously reviving economic activity in rural areas.<sup>401</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the MPC voted to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility unchanged at 4.0 per cent.<sup>402</sup> The MPC also decided on additional measures to promote economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining its inflation target.<sup>403</sup> As part of these measures, the MPC decided to relax borrowing limits against gold, allowed banks to restructure loans from micro, small and medium enterprises, and issued additional liquidity for all India financial institutions in order to support their role in meeting funding requirements of various sectors.<sup>404</sup> In addition, the MPC announced the creation of a Reserve Bank Innovation Hub to promote solutions on financial inclusion and other issues.<sup>405</sup>

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<sup>397</sup> ₹15,000 cr. to promote private investment in dairy, meat processing infrastructure, The Hindu (Chennai), 24 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/15000-cr-to-promote-private-investment-in-dairy-meat-processing-infrastructure/article31908292.ece>

<sup>398</sup> ₹15,000 cr. to promote private investment in dairy, meat processing infrastructure, The Hindu (Chennai), 24 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/15000-cr-to-promote-private-investment-in-dairy-meat-processing-infrastructure/article31908292.ece>

<sup>399</sup> ₹15,000 cr. to promote private investment in dairy, meat processing infrastructure, The Hindu (Chennai), 24 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/15000-cr-to-promote-private-investment-in-dairy-meat-processing-infrastructure/article31908292.ece>

<sup>400</sup> Govt. committed to inclusive growth: CM, The Hindu (Chennai), 03 August 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/govt-committed-to-inclusive-growth-cm/article32263152.ece>

<sup>401</sup> Govt. committed to inclusive growth: CM, The Hindu (Chennai), 03 August 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/govt-committed-to-inclusive-growth-cm/article32263152.ece>

<sup>402</sup> Monetary Policy Statement, 2020-21 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) August 4 to 6, 2020, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 06 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50175](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50175)

<sup>403</sup> Alert amid uncertainty: On RBI holding interest rates, The Hindu (Chennai), 08 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/alert-amid-uncertainty-the-hindu-editorial-on-rbi-holding-interest-rates/article32298946.ece>

<sup>404</sup> RBI keeps key policy rates unchanged, The Hindu (Chennai), 06 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-leaves-key-rates-unchanged/article32283042.ece>

<sup>405</sup> Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 06 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50176](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50176)

On 25 August 2020, the RBI announced special OMOs of simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities worth a total of INR200 billion.<sup>406</sup> The operations are intended to promote stable liquidity and market conditions.<sup>407</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the RBI announced measures to ensure orderly market conditions.<sup>408</sup> The measures include two additional tranches of special market operations in bonds in September as well as raising the held-to maturity limit under the statutory liquidity ratio for banks.<sup>409</sup> The measures are intended to revive economic growth and mitigate the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic by maintaining hospitable financial conditions, thereby preserving macroeconomic and financial stability.<sup>410</sup>

On 4 September 2020, the RBI released revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines to recalibrate its focus on inclusive development.<sup>411</sup> The revised guidelines especially target finance to start-ups, loans to farmers for solar power plants, loans for compressed bio gas plants.<sup>412</sup> The revised guidelines will enable better credit penetration to credit deficient areas, increase the lending to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections, and promote credit to renewable energy and health infrastructure.<sup>413</sup>

Overall, India has taken active steps to promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth by working towards the alleviation of poverty and the inclusion of marginalized stakeholders such as farmers, citizens in rural areas and women into the national and global economy. India has pursued actions with the aim of increasing investment, such as by reducing its corporate tax rate for domestic companies. The RBI has made efforts to promote growth amidst high inflation levels. India has hence complied with all elements of the commitment.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Katharina Kubn*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

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<sup>406</sup> RBI Announces Special Open Market Operations (OMOs) of Simultaneous Purchase and Sale of Government of India Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 25 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020.

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50252](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50252)

<sup>407</sup> RBI Announces Special Open Market Operations (OMOs) of Simultaneous Purchase and Sale of Government of India Securities, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 25 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020.

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50252](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50252)

<sup>408</sup> RBI Announces Measures to Foster Orderly Market Conditions, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 31 August 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50288](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50288)

<sup>409</sup> RBI announces measures to ensure orderly market conditions, The Hindu (Chennai), 31 August 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/businesslive-31-august-2020/article32483898.ece>

<sup>410</sup> RBI announces measures to ensure orderly market conditions, The Hindu (Chennai), 31 August 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.thehindu.com/business/businesslive-31-august-2020/article32483898.ece>

<sup>411</sup> RBI Releases Revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 04 September 2020.

Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310)

<sup>412</sup> RBI Releases Revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 04 September 2020.

Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310)

<sup>413</sup> RBI Releases Revised Priority Sector Lending Guidelines, Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai), 04 September 2020.

Access Date: 9 September 2020. [https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50310)



On 18 July 2019, Bank Indonesia cut its benchmark interest rate for the first time in nearly two years. This cut made room for accommodative monetary policy, in line with expectations of low inflation to further support economic growth.<sup>414</sup>

On 9 August 2019, Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukit announced that he will immediately recommend to an interministerial team a 20-25 per cent tariff on dairy products from the European Union as the appropriate response to the EU's plan to impose anti-subsidy duties of 8-18 per cent on palm biodiesel from Indonesia. He also requested that dairy product importers should find new sources of supply other than from EU members.<sup>415</sup>

On 23 August 2019, Bank Indonesia Governor Perry Warjiyo announced that Indonesia's central bank cut interest rates on 22 August 2019 as a "preemptive move" to encourage growth at a time when risks to the global economy are piling up.<sup>416</sup>

On 24 September 2019, the Department of Finance stated that Indonesia has set aside IDR10 trillion (USD708.72 million) as a buffer for fiscal risks next year, a 43 per cent increase from such an allocation this year, due to global economic uncertainty.<sup>417</sup>

On 13 January 2020, President Joko Widodo announced Indonesia signed 11 business deals with the United Arab Emirates worth a combined IDR314.9 trillion (USD23 billion) covering investment in energy and other sectors.<sup>418</sup>

On 20 January 2020, President Widodo announced the Indonesian government plans to table a bill in parliament on 16 January that will revise 79 separate existing laws and 1,244 clauses. These all-around laws on job creation will reform Indonesia's labor legislation, make it easier for companies to secure permits, and relax foreign ownership rules, local content requirements and land procurement.<sup>419</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Bank Indonesia cut the seven-day reverse repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 4.75 per cent, the first easing in 2020 and following four cuts of 100 basis points in 2019. This movement has generally been viewed as Indonesia stepped up efforts to ward off the impact of the coronavirus outbreak.<sup>420</sup>

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<sup>414</sup> Indonesia central bank cuts rates for first time in nearly two years to fire up growth, Reuters (Jakarta) 8 July 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-economy-rates/indonesia-central-bank-cuts-rates-for-first-time-in-nearly-two-years-to-fire-up-growth-idUSKCN1UD0SG>

<sup>415</sup> Indonesia minister propose dairy tariffs to fight EU biodiesel duties, Reuters (Jakarta) 9 August 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-eu-trade/indonesia-minister-proposes-dairy-tariffs-to-fight-eu-biodiesel-duties-idUSKCN1UZ0FW>

<sup>416</sup> Another Asian central bank cuts interest rates — analysts say the region's not done easing yet, CNBC (Jakarta) 23 August 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/23/bank-indonesia-cuts-rates-analysts-expect-more-policy-easing-in-asia.html>

<sup>417</sup> Indonesia set aside \$700 million as fiscal buffer in 2020 budget, Reuters (Jakarta) 24 September 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-economy-budget-risks/indonesia-sets-aside-700-million-as-fiscal-buffer-in-2020-budget-idUSKBN1W91VM>

<sup>418</sup> Indonesia, UAE sign business deals worth about \$2 billion: Widodo, Reuters (Jakarta) 13 January 2020. Access Date 7 February. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-uae-sign-business-deal-worth-about-23-billion-widodo-idUSKBN1ZC08R>

<sup>419</sup> Indonesia Is Set to Overhaul 79 Laws in a Push for Jobs and Foreign Investment, Bloomberg (Jakarta) 20 January 2020. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-01-20/indonesia-set-to-recast-almost-80-laws-in-jobs-investment-push>

<sup>420</sup> Indonesia c.bank cuts rates as virus risks mount, trims outlook, Reuters (Jakarta) 20 February 2020. Access Date 20 February 2020. Access Date 15 March 2020. <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/indonesia-c.bank-cuts-rates-as-virus-risks-mount-trims-outlook-2020-02-20>

On 25 February 2020, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati announced that the government of Indonesia has launched a stimulus package worth IDR10.3 trillion (USD742.6 million) to protect its economy from the impact of the coronavirus outbreak in China.<sup>421</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Minister Indrawati announced an immediate tax relief for the manufacturing industry in Indonesia. Since 11 March, the manufacturing companies no longer need to pay out income tax for their workers for six months, which aims to reinforce Indonesia's economy under the pressure of the coronavirus outbreak around the world.<sup>422</sup>

On 13 March 2020, Minister Indrawati declared an IDR120 trillion (USD8.1 billion) of stimulus package to support Southeast Asia's biggest economy as the spread of the COVID-19 disrupts global activity. The stimulus represents about 0.8 per cent of gross domestic product, which includes exempting some workers in manufacturing from income tax and giving manufacturing companies a discount on corporate tax payments.<sup>423</sup>

On 16 March 2020, Governor Warjiyo, announced that the central bank will cut the benchmark 7-day reverse repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 4.50 per cent. This is the second rate cut since 2020 follow the first wave in February.<sup>424</sup>

On 3 June 2020, Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati addressed that the total spending for the National Economic Recovery Programme in 2020 will rise to IDR677.2 trillion (USD47.76 billion). This fiscal spending is used to keep the virus hit economy from shrinking.<sup>425</sup>

On 18 July 2020, Bank Indonesia cut its benchmark seven-day repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 4.25 per cent as announced by Governor Warjiyo. He also claims that there will be enough space for more cuts if it is necessary to avoid the recession which cause by the pandemic.<sup>426</sup>

On 24 June 2020, Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said the government will shift IDR30 trillion (USD2.13 trillion) from its central bank to four major state banks. This fund will be used to expand leading and supporting the virus-hit economy by these banks.<sup>427</sup>

On 6 July 2020, Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati announced a nearly USD40 billion financing scheme for its fiscal deficit, with the central bank set to buy IDR397.6 trillion directly without receiving interest to assist the economy recovery.<sup>428</sup>

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<sup>421</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia announces nearly \$750 mln stimulus in response to coronavirus, Reuters (Jakarta) 25 February 2020, Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-economy/update-1-indonesia-announces-nearly-750-mln-stimulus-in-response-to-coronavirus-idUSL3N2AP2P1>

<sup>422</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia announces tax relief for manufacturing during virus outbreak, Reuters (Jakarta) 11 March 2020, Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-indonesia-economy/update-1-indonesia-announces-tax-relief-for-manufacturing-during-virus-outbreak-idUSL4N2B439A>

<sup>423</sup> Indonesia to support economy with \$8 bln stimulus to counter virus impact, Reuters(Jakarta) 13 March 2020, Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/health-coronavirus-indonesia-economy/indonesia-to-support-economy-with-8-bln-stimulus-to-counter-virus-impact-idUSJ9N2AX00D>

<sup>424</sup> Indonesia central bank seen making second cut in 2020 to help economy weather coronavirus impact: Reuters poll (Jakarta) 16 Mar 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN2130Y4>

<sup>425</sup> Indonesia steps up fiscal spending to keep economy from contracting (Jakarta) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSL4N2DG18V>

<sup>426</sup> Indonesia makes year's third rate cut, signals more easing to fight pandemic (Jakarta) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://www.theguradian.pe.ca/business/reuters/indonesia-makes-years-third-rate-cut-signals-more-easing-to-fight-pandemic-463603/>

<sup>427</sup> Indonesia to place funds in state banks to support economy (Jakarta) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSL4N2E11Y5>

On 18 July 2020, the Department of Finance announced that Indonesia has increased tax incentives for businesses in a move to try and limit the economic impact of the pandemic. This tax relief will not expire until the end of 2020.<sup>429</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Indonesia's central bank cut interest rates for the fourth time this year. The Bank Indonesia cuts its 7-day reverse repurchase rate by 25 basis points to 4.00 per cent, the lowest since 2016 aims to support national economic recovery amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>430</sup>

On 19 August 2020, Indonesia's central bank has declared that it will keep its policy interest rate unchanged on Wednesday, prioritizing market stability but loosened some leading rules to spur consumption in the pandemic-hit economy. The central bank also removed loan down-payment requirement for purchases of environment –friendly vehicles which aims to assist a new growth pole for the future economy reset.<sup>431</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Ministry of Finance announced a new single stamp duty of IDR10,000 starting 1 January 2020.<sup>432</sup> Its purpose is “to provide equality between paper and electronic documents...to support the community and MSMEs at a relatively affordable rate...[and] for simplification and effectiveness through a single tariff and electronic stamp duty.”<sup>433</sup>

Indonesia has taken actions to both promote inclusive growth, as well as to safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zimu Zhao*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 January 2020, the government introduced a 3 per cent service tax on digital service revenues which aligned with the European Commission's 2018 Directive Proposal that harmonizes taxes in the digital single market.<sup>434</sup> The tax will apply to businesses which exceed total revenues by EUR750

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<sup>428</sup> Indonesia unveil \$40 billion bond scheme to fund recovery from pandemic (Jakarta) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN2471AZ>

<sup>429</sup> Indonesia boosts tax incentives to limit economic impact from COVID (Jakarta) 18 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKCN24J0I8>

<sup>430</sup> Indonesia c.bank cuts rates for 4<sup>th</sup> time this year as virus cases jump (Jakarta) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSL3N2EM2NR>

<sup>431</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia c.bank keeps rates on hold, eases car loan rules (Jakarta) 19 Aug 2020. Access Date: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSL4N2FK2BV>

<sup>432</sup> A Single Stamp Duty Tariff of Rp10,000 is to be Imposed in 2021 with a Transition Period, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/a-single-stamp-duty-tariff-of-rp10-000-is-to-be-imposed-in-2021-with-a-transition-period/>

<sup>433</sup> A Single Stamp Duty Tariff of Rp10,000 is to be Imposed in 2021 with a Transition Period, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/en/publications/news/a-single-stamp-duty-tariff-of-rp10-000-is-to-be-imposed-in-2021-with-a-transition-period/>

<sup>434</sup> Possible Double Taxation Behind the Italian Digital Services Tax (Milan) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-possible-double-taxation-behind-the-italian-digital-services-tax>

million and total digital revenues produced in Italy which surpass EUR5.5 million.<sup>435</sup> Digital services encompass advertising on digital services, collecting and transmitting consumer data, and digital platforms, which facilitate the sale of goods between users.<sup>436</sup>

On 14 January 2020, the Italian Development Cooperation stated that it will donate EUR4.55 million into the tomato industry in Egypt and Iraq.<sup>437</sup> The funds will go to two United Nations Industrial Development Organization projects.<sup>438</sup> In Egypt, the project will improve market strategies, improve linkages between supplying and processing factories, strengthen skills of workers, and subsequently improve tomato production quality.<sup>439</sup>

On 9 August 2019, Italy attended the ninth Italy-Latin America and Caribbean Conference with the theme of “Together for sustainable growth.”<sup>440</sup> The conference launched proposals that align with the objectives stated in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>441</sup> Sustainable growth, strengthening ties between Italy and Latin America, and further collaboration on innovation and economy were discussed.<sup>442</sup>

On 13 January 2020, President Matteo Salvini stalled on approving the new European Stability Mechanism Treaty, which acts as a rescue fund by providing loans to economically troubled countries.<sup>443</sup> Salvini stated that enabling the treaty to pass would devalue the investments Italian citizens have placed in government bonds.<sup>444</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced that the government will spend as much as EUR25 billion on stimulus measures to deter the effect of the coronavirus outbreak on the economy.<sup>445</sup> Stimulus measures include compensation for companies whose turnover has fallen over

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<sup>435</sup> Possible Double Taxation Behind the Italian Digital Services Tax (Milan) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-possible-double-taxation-behind-the-italian-digital-services-tax>

<sup>436</sup> Possible Double Taxation Behind the Italian Digital Services Tax (Milan) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-possible-double-taxation-behind-the-italian-digital-services-tax>

<sup>437</sup> Egypt: Italy to invest in tomato project (Avignon) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project\\_2\\_919.html](http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project_2_919.html)

<sup>438</sup> Egypt: Italy to invest in tomato project (Avignon) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project\\_2\\_919.html](http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project_2_919.html)

<sup>439</sup> Egypt: Italy to invest in tomato project (Avignon) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project\\_2\\_919.html](http://www.tomatonews.com/en/egypt-italy-to-invest-in-tomato-project_2_919.html)

<sup>440</sup> IX Italy-Latin America and Caribbean Conference, ‘together for sustainable growth’ (Rome) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html)

<sup>441</sup> IX Italy-Latin America and Caribbean Conference, ‘together for sustainable growth’ (Rome) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html)

<sup>442</sup> IX Italy-Latin America and Caribbean Conference, ‘together for sustainable growth’ (Rome) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/approfondimenti/ix-conferenza-italia-america-latina-e-caraibi-insieme-per-crescita-sostenibile.html)

<sup>443</sup> Italy emerges as biggest obstacle to eurozone banking union (13 January 2020). Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/b9dea3b6-3384-11ea-a329-0bcf87a328f2>

<sup>444</sup> Italy emerges as biggest obstacle to eurozone banking union (13 January 2020). Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/b9dea3b6-3384-11ea-a329-0bcf87a328f2>

<sup>445</sup> Italy Announces \$28 Billion Plan to Cushion Virus-Hit Economy (Milan) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-10/conte-calls-on-ecb-to-do-whatever-it-takes-against-coronavirus>

25 per cent, boosting guarantee funds on loans for small- and medium-sized enterprises, and help for workers experiencing layoffs.

On 27 February 2020, President of the National Council for Economics and Labour Tiziano Treu announced legislative proposals on reducing gender inequalities in the labour market during the Labor Commission hearing in parliament.<sup>446</sup> The changes regard reforming Article 46 of the Code of Equal Opportunities Between Men and Women to better enable women to participate equally to men in the labour sector by emphasizing co-parenting, ensuring equal wages and utilizing collective bargaining.<sup>447</sup>

On 12 January 2020, the National Council for Economics and Labour filed a memorandum against dumping and low wages with the Italian Chamber of Deputies.<sup>448</sup> Council President Treu complained that the workers' unions which were signing national collective agreements on behalf of the workers were not representative of such workers.<sup>449</sup> Those unions are lesser-known and present multi-sectoral characteristics which discriminate against various production areas and eliminate the separation between supply chains and labour markets.<sup>450</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Italy signed two memorandums of understanding with China.<sup>451</sup> The agreements open China to Italian exports of beef and rice, which has been deemed fundamental by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to break down the trade barriers between Italian agricultural imports and Chinese markets.<sup>452</sup>

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<sup>446</sup> Comunicato N. 21 Del 27 Febbraio 2020 — Lavoro, Cnel: Contratto 2° Livello Puo' Ridurre Gap Gender (Rome) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/1112/>

COMUNICATO-N-21-DEL-27-FEBBRAIO-2020-LAVORO-CNEL-CONTRATTO-2176-LIVELLO-PUO'-RIDURRE-GAP-GENDER

<sup>447</sup> Comunicato N. 21 Del 27 Febbraio 2020 — Lavoro, Cnel: Contratto 2° Livello Puo' Ridurre Gap Gender (Rome) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/1112/COMUNICATO-N-21-DEL-27-FEBBRAIO-2020-LAVORO-CNEL-CONTRATTO-2176-LIVELLO-PUO'-RIDURRE-GAP-GENDER>

<sup>448</sup> Comunicato N. 4 Del 14 Gennaio 2020 — Sindacati, Treu: Rappresentanza Per Contrastare Dumping E Salari Bassi (Rome) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/997/COMUNICATO-N-4-DEL-14-GENNAIO-2020-SINDACATI-TREU-RAPPRESENTANZA-PER-CONTRASTARE-DUMPING-E-SALARI-BASSI>

<sup>449</sup> Comunicato N. 4 Del 14 Gennaio 2020 — Sindacati, Treu: Rappresentanza Per Contrastare Dumping E Salari Bassi (Rome) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/997/COMUNICATO-N-4-DEL-14-GENNAIO-2020-SINDACATI-TREU-RAPPRESENTANZA-PER-CONTRASTARE-DUMPING-E-SALARI-BASSI>

<sup>450</sup> Comunicato N. 4 Del 14 Gennaio 2020 — Sindacati, Treu: Rappresentanza Per Contrastare Dumping E Salari Bassi (Rome) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/997/COMUNICATO-N-4-DEL-14-GENNAIO-2020-SINDACATI-TREU-RAPPRESENTANZA-PER-CONTRASTARE-DUMPING-E-SALARI-BASSI>

<sup>451</sup> Memoranda of understanding for the export of beef and rice to China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/protocolli-d-intesa-per-l-esportazione-di-carne-bovina-e-riso-in-cina.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/protocolli-d-intesa-per-l-esportazione-di-carne-bovina-e-riso-in-cina.html)

<sup>452</sup> Memoranda of understanding for the export of beef and rice to China, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. [https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/protocolli-d-intesa-per-l-esportazione-di-carne-bovina-e-riso-in-cina.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/protocolli-d-intesa-per-l-esportazione-di-carne-bovina-e-riso-in-cina.html)

On 8 June 2020, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio signed the Pact for Export, which outlines Italy's strategy to relaunch the Made in Italy campaign following the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>453</sup> The program has allocated EUR300 million to protect small- and medium enterprises from monopolies and unfair competitive practices in order to help such businesses export products.<sup>454</sup>

On 31 August 2020, Council President Treu approved an economic recovery fund based on the Economic Fitness for Complex Systems Approach amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>455</sup> The Economic Fitness Approach has been acknowledged by the World Bank as a successful method of strategic analysis of industrial competitiveness.<sup>456</sup> The method will be utilized to determine the best economic solution for industrial sectors of the Italian economy as part of the COVID-19 recovery plan.<sup>457</sup>

Italy has taken action in promoting trade with other countries by increasing trade liberalization. Italy has also protected its own markets against the coronavirus outbreak which threatens the stability of Italian industries.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mathuja Jeyakumar*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on inclusive growth and protection against downside risk.

On 3 September 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the adoption of the Cool Japan Strategy. Cool Japan Strategy focuses on not only the growth of the economy, but also the internal connection between Japanese businesses and the rest of the world, by promoting communications from local communities, small- and medium-sized businesses to attract the world more effectively, and carrying regional revitalizations in Japan.<sup>458</sup>

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<sup>453</sup> Pact for exports: virtual sectoral tables for the promotion of Made in Italy are underway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/patto-per-l-export-al-via-i-tavoli-settoriali-virtuali-per-la-promozione-del-made-in-italy.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/patto-per-l-export-al-via-i-tavoli-settoriali-virtuali-per-la-promozione-del-made-in-italy.html)

<sup>454</sup> Pact for exports: virtual sectoral tables for the promotion of Made in Italy are underway, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

[https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala\\_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/patto-per-l-export-al-via-i-tavoli-settoriali-virtuali-per-la-promozione-del-made-in-italy.html](https://www.esteri.it/mae/it/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2020/04/patto-per-l-export-al-via-i-tavoli-settoriali-virtuali-per-la-promozione-del-made-in-italy.html)

<sup>455</sup> Recovery Fund, Treu: Adopting the Method of Economic Fitness, National Council for Economics and Labour (Rome) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/1334/RECOVERY-FUND-TREU-ADOTTARE-IL-METODO-DELLA-FITNESS-ECONOMICA>

<sup>456</sup> Recovery Fund, Treu: Adopting the Method of Economic Fitness, National Council for Economics and Labour (Rome) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/1334/RECOVERY-FUND-TREU-ADOTTARE-IL-METODO-DELLA-FITNESS-ECONOMICA>

<sup>457</sup> Recovery Fund, Treu: Adopting the Method of Economic Fitness, National Council for Economics and Labour (Rome) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. <https://www.cnel.it/Comunicazione-e-Stampa/Notizie/ArtMID/694/ArticleID/1334/RECOVERY-FUND-TREU-ADOTTARE-IL-METODO-DELLA-FITNESS-ECONOMICA>

<sup>458</sup> Intellectual Property Strategy Headquarters. Access date: 6 February 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201909/\\_00002.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201909/_00002.html)

On 6 September 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced that the Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corporation has reached to its final decision to invest in the Arctic LNG 2 Project, which connects and transfers liquid natural gas (LNG) from the Arctic region to Japan via the Arctic Sea Route. The announcement was being made at Vladivostok, Russia, during Prime Minister Abe's visit to the fifth Eastern Economic Forum and other events.<sup>459</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the Council on Investment for the Future, summoned by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, organized a Headquarters for Digital Market Competition. The action is expected to help facilitate better rules for Japanese digital industry and encouragement for protection of development and privacy of business in relevant industries.<sup>460</sup>

On 3 October 2019, Prime Minister Abe called for regulatory reforms in reaction to the coming of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, during his 31st meeting of the Council on Investments for the Future. Prime Minister Abe also mentioned using artificial intelligence technology to establish a more advanced, detailed business regulatory system of Japan, which is based on big data.<sup>461</sup>

On 18 October 2019, Prime Minister Abe urged that “full economic attention” needs to be given in regards to the fallout of natural disasters by Typhoon No. 19 of 2019, during his meeting of the Ministerial Council on the Monthly Economic Report. He also commented on and let aware of the current recovery risk Japanese economy is facing following the US-China Trade Tensions and Brexit.<sup>462</sup>

On 31 October 2019, Prime Minister Abe publicly called for his members of the Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform to prepare and unfold the necessary regulation reform regarding various economic fields, including business, finance, agriculture, telecommunications or broadcasting. Prime Minister Abe expressed his opinion on “bold reforms” and they would always be necessary, significant, and due to change in the outlook of reality economic conditions.<sup>463</sup>

On 22 November 2019, Prime Minister Abe announced that Japan began a scheme that offers JPY3 million for people moving to Tokyo to promote their head start of new businesses and job applications. Prime Minister Abe highlighted his support for people moving to Tokyo, seeking new opportunities which provide a backbone for the development of the economy.<sup>464</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced on the eighth meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters that the government will make “all-out efforts” to help finance of local, small and medium enterprises in tourist industry and other sectors, by providing a total of JPY500 billion “for emergency lending and loan guarantees at the Japan Finance Corporation and other institutions.”<sup>465</sup>

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<sup>459</sup> Eastern Economic Forum and Other Events: Third Day. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201909/\\_00006.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201909/_00006.html)

<sup>460</sup> Council on Investments for the Future. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201909/\\_00016.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201909/_00016.html)

<sup>461</sup> Council on Investments for the Future. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201910/\\_00007.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201910/_00007.html)

<sup>462</sup> Ministerial Council on the Monthly Economic Report and Other Relative Issues. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201910/\\_00036.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201910/_00036.html)

<sup>463</sup> Council for Promotion of Regulatory Reform. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201910/\\_00068.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201910/_00068.html)

<sup>464</sup> Council on Overcoming Population Decline and Vitalizing Local Economy. Access date: 6 February 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/201911/\\_00058.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/201911/_00058.html)

<sup>465</sup> Eighth Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. Access date: 14 March 2020.

[https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202002/\\_00019.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202002/_00019.html)

On 1 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe required the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters to release JPY270 billion within the dates until 10 March 2020, to help relieve the economic risk by mobilizing the emergency contingency package.<sup>466</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe ordered cabinet ministers and members to “provide strong liquidity support amounting to a total of JPY1.6 trillion, including real interest-free unsecured loans ... so that small- and medium-sized business operators across the country facing very severe situations can steadily continue their respective businesses ... [and] also support the efforts to secure supply chains,” on the 19th meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also collectively decided to take “fiscal measures of a total of JPY430 billion, by utilizing this fiscal year’s contingency funds of JPY270 billion and other means.”<sup>467</sup>

On 31 March 2020, Prime Minister Abe decided to take extensive economic measures with JPY26 trillion comprehensive economic measures. The economic measure aimed at formulating new supplementary budget.<sup>468</sup>

On 3 July 2020, Prime Minister Abe decided four points of FY2020 draft action, including the building of new work styles, facilities for digitalization of marketplace, and the advance of open innovation.<sup>469</sup>

On 17 July 2020, Prime Minister Abe announced that the draft of Basic Policy on Economic and Fiscal Management and Reform 2020 and the draft plan for the Growth Strategy were finalized to help face the novel coronavirus pandemic. The new growth strategy focused the development on new work models and the reassessment of the payment settlement infrastructure.<sup>470</sup>

On 7 August 2020, Prime Minister Abe decided to carry out effective policies and restore socio-economic activities at the same time and keep a balance between the two so that the risks of economic downturn could be eliminated.<sup>471</sup>

On 6 October 2020, Prime Minister Abe held the 14th meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy in 2020 to discuss macroeconomic and financial policies and necessary reforms.<sup>472</sup> The regulatory reforms will include “the creation of a flow of people from urban areas to rural areas, reforms on corporate governance, the strengthening of competitiveness, and green growth, as well as advancing digitization in the public sector and making the sector more efficient.”<sup>473</sup> Also, the budget

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<sup>466</sup> 16th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. Access date: 14 March 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00001.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00001.html)

<sup>467</sup> 19th Meeting of the Novel Coronavirus Response Headquarters. Access date: 14 March 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00012.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00012.html)

<sup>468</sup> Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy. Access Date: 6 June 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202003/\\_00053.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202003/_00053.html)

<sup>469</sup> Council on Investments for the Future. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202007/\\_00004.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202007/_00004.html)

<sup>470</sup> Joint Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy and the Council on Investments for the Future. Access Date: 17 July 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202007/\\_00019.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202007/_00019.html)

<sup>471</sup> Hearing of the Council on Investments for the Future. Access Date: 10 August 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98\\_abe/actions/202008/\\_00009.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/98_abe/actions/202008/_00009.html)

<sup>472</sup> Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202010/\\_00027.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202010/_00027.html)

<sup>473</sup> Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202010/\\_00027.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202010/_00027.html)



will prioritize policy measures that increase demand in the private sector and the Council will closely monitor economic conditions to further implement necessary measures.<sup>474</sup>

Japan has taken actions that promote inclusive growth. Its actions safeguarding against the downside risk also reach to a constant level, including taking firm actions against the possible negative fallout of natural disasters, and diversifying its economic structure based on new technologies in reaction to various global economic threats, in many considerate approaches.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zeng Lecheng*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 10 December 2019, the Ministry of Justice announced new policy measures aimed at improving the human rights of foreigners working in the local hotel and entertainment sectors with the E-6 visa.<sup>475</sup> Under the revised rules, local immigration offices will hold direct meetings and interviews with foreign workers in the hotel and entertainment sectors to ascertain whether they suffered human rights violations, including sex trafficking.<sup>476</sup> The authorities have had difficulties recognizing rights violations, as employers and agents usually handled paperwork on behalf of foreign workers.<sup>477</sup>

On 12 December 2019, President Moon Jae-in announced that his government will push for the epoch-making development of the country's agricultural and fisheries sectors in tandem with a response to the fourth industrial revolution.<sup>478</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Finance Minister Hong Nam-Ki announced that Korea will implement its economic policy next year to invigorate investment and create more jobs, while laying the foundation to tackle the country's chronic low birthrate and maintain decent economic expansion over the mid-to-long haul.<sup>479</sup> The ministry said it will allocate about 70 per cent of the 2020 budget in the first half of next year to prop up the slowing economy.<sup>480</sup> The finance ministry said job-creating sectors and firms will receive an array of tax and other benefits, while the government will draw up more measures to help facilitate local firms' hiring of more women.<sup>481</sup>

On 20 January 2020, Finance Minister Hong announced that Korea will focus on promoting economic cooperation this year with Russia, Mongolia and other countries located north of the

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<sup>474</sup> Meeting of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy, Prime Minister of Japan and His Cabinet (Tokyo) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. [https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99\\_suga/actions/202010/\\_00027.html](https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/actions/202010/_00027.html)

<sup>475</sup> Gov't to Better Protect Human Rights of Foreign Entertainment Workers, Yonhap News Agency 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191210003600315?section=search>

<sup>476</sup> Gov't to Better Protect Human Rights of Foreign Entertainment Workers, Yonhap News Agency 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191210003600315?section=search>

<sup>477</sup> Gov't to Better Protect Human Rights of Foreign Entertainment Workers, Yonhap News Agency 10 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191210003600315?section=search>

<sup>478</sup> Moon Vows Gov't Efforts to Transform Agricultural System, Yonhap News Agency 12 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191212004300315?section=search>

<sup>479</sup> Economic Policy to Center on Boosting Investment, Job Creation in 2020, Yonhap News Agency 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191218007100320?section=search>

<sup>480</sup> Economic Policy to Center on Boosting Investment, Job Creation in 2020, Yonhap News Agency 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191218007100320?section=search>

<sup>481</sup> Economic Policy to Center on Boosting Investment, Job Creation in 2020, Yonhap News Agency 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191218007100320?section=search>

Korean Peninsula in line with the diplomatic initiative of its New Northern Policy.<sup>482</sup> The finance ministry said that Under the initiative, Korea will expand its cooperative scheme with Russia in the sectors of railroad, electricity, gas, ports, agriculture and fisheries.<sup>483</sup>

On 3 February 2020, Vice Finance Minister Kim Yong-beom announced in a meeting with senior economic and financial officials that Korea will swiftly take measures to stabilize its financial markets in case of increased volatility amid growing concerns about the economic impact of the rapidly spreading new coronavirus in China and other countries.<sup>484</sup> The Vice Finance Minister also said that in case of a rise in volatility, the government will cope with its contingency plan.<sup>485</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the Ministry of Education announced that the government will spend KRW2.9 trillion over the next seven years on nurturing world-class master's and doctoral degree holders in new industries and basic academic fields.<sup>486</sup> The long-term human resources development program was announced by the ministry and the National Research Foundation of Korea as part of Phase Four of the Brain Korea 21 project.<sup>487</sup> Brain Korea 21, also known as BK21, is a representative university support project initiated by the ministry to offer scholarships and research expenses to outstanding scholars attending master's and doctoral degree courses.<sup>488</sup>

On 7 February 2020, Finance Minister Hong announced that Korea will provide KRW2 trillion won in financial support to small merchants who are expected to take a hit from the rapid spread of the novel coronavirus.<sup>489</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Bank of Korea slashed the key rate by half a per centage point to 0.75 per cent to help minimize the fallout from the spread of the new coronavirus and financial turmoil.<sup>490</sup> The bank also cut borrowing costs for its loan facility scheme aimed at helping smaller companies and made more bonds sold by banks eligible for its open market operations to help raise liquidity in the financial system.<sup>491</sup>

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<sup>482</sup> S. Korea to Focus on Promoting Economic Cooperation with Russia, Mongolia, Yonhap News Agency 20 January, 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200120001100320?section=search>

<sup>483</sup> S. Korea to Focus on Promoting Economic Cooperation with Russia, Mongolia, Yonhap News Agency 20 January, 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200120001100320?section=search>

<sup>484</sup> S. Korea to swiftly take measures against virus-triggered volatility, Yonhap News Agency 3 February 2020. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200204000600320?section=economy/economy>

<sup>485</sup> S. Korea to swiftly take measures against virus-triggered volatility, Yonhap News Agency 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200204000600320?section=economy/economy>

<sup>486</sup> S. Korea to Spend 2.9 Tln Won by 2027 to Nurture Elite Scholars in New Industries, Yonhap News Agency 5 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200206008200315?section=national/politics>

<sup>487</sup> S. Korea to Spend 2.9 Tln Won by 2027 to Nurture Elite Scholars in New Industries, Yonhap News Agency 5 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200206008200315?section=national/politics>

<sup>488</sup> S. Korea to Spend 2.9 Tln Won by 2027 to Nurture Elite Scholars in New Industries, Yonhap News Agency 5 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200206008200315?section=national/politics>

<sup>489</sup> S. Korea to offer 2 tln won in financial support to small merchants amid virus fallout, Yonhap News Agency 7 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200207001500320?section=economy/economy>

<sup>490</sup> BOK trims rate to record low of 0.75 pct to support economy amid virus outbreak, Yonhap News Agency 16 March 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200316007753320>

<sup>491</sup> BOK trims rate to record low of 0.75 pct to support economy amid virus outbreak, Yonhap News Agency 16 March 2020. Access Date: 20 April 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200316007753320>

On 31 March 2020, the Defense Ministry said that it will hire 400 handicapped civilian employees this year, including 20 people with serious disabilities, as part of government efforts to expand their employment opportunities.<sup>492</sup>

On 22 April 2020, President Moon Jae-in announced a massive relief package, worth KRW 0 trillion (USD32 billion), for Korea's key industries disrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. President Moon also unveiled an additional job protection scheme that involves spending KRW10 trillion to cushion the COVID-19 impact on the country's job market.<sup>493</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the National Assembly passed a KRW35.1 trillion (USD 29.3 billion) extra budget to combat the continuing new coronavirus outbreaks here and the economic fallout from the pandemic.<sup>494</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the government announced that it plans to put all working citizens under employment insurance coverage by 2025 as part of its ambitious policy project aimed at overcoming the new coronavirus pandemic, the labour minister said.<sup>495</sup> With the plan, some 21 million people are forecast to be covered by the state employment insurance scheme by 2025, compared with the current figure that falls short of 14 million<sup>496</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the government announced the 2021 minimum wage of KRW8,720 per hour, up 1.5 per cent from this year.<sup>497</sup> The increase will take effect on 1 January 2021.<sup>498</sup>

Korea has taken some steps towards promoting inclusive growth and towards safeguarding against downside risks however they have been limited to only domestic level.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Shubdeep Randhawa*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 16 December 2019, the National Minimum Wage Commission (Conasami) announced the increase of general minimum salary to MXN 123.22 from MXN 102.68, representing a 20 per cent gain, the increase takes effect on 1 January, 2020.<sup>499</sup> Minimum wage for the North Border Free Zone,

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<sup>492</sup> Defense Ministry to Hire 400 Disabled Civilian Workers This Year, Yonhap News Agency 31 March 2020. Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200331003200325?section=search>.

<sup>493</sup> Moon Unveils W40 Trn Relief Package for Key Industries, Job Retention, Yonhap News Agency 22 April 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200422004300315?section=search>

<sup>494</sup> S. Korean Assembly Approves 3rd Virus Response Extra Budget Worth 35.1 Trn Won, Yonhap News Agency 3 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200703009551315>

<sup>495</sup> Gov't to expand employment insurance to all workers by 2025: minister, Yonhap News Agency 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200720003800315?section=search>

<sup>496</sup> Gov't to expand employment insurance to all workers by 2025: minister, Yonhap News Agency 20 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200720003800315?section=search>

<sup>497</sup> S. Korea finalizes smallest-ever increase in minimum wage amid pandemic slowdown, Yonhap News Agency 5 August 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200720003800315?section=search>

<sup>498</sup> S. Korea finalizes smallest-ever increase in minimum wage amid pandemic slowdown, Yonhap News Agency 5 August 2020. Access Date: 25 August 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200720003800315?section=search>

<sup>499</sup> Mexico to Increase General Minimum Wage by 20 Percent for 2020: Insights, Holland & Knight 16 December. Access Date: 8, February 2020. <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2019/12/mexico-to-increase-general-minimum-wage-by-20-percent-for-2020>

which already has a higher minimum wage, will rise by only 5 per cent, to MXN185.56 per day and minimum pay for professionals also will increase by only 5 per cent.<sup>500</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the central bank cut its benchmark interest rate to 7.25 per cent citing softening headline inflation and slack in the economy, but highlighted concern that a recent minimum wage hike could stoke price pressures.<sup>501</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the Finance Ministry announced that Mexico has completed its annual oil hedging program for 2020 at \$49 a barrel.<sup>502</sup> The hedge price is notably lower than 2019, which was hedged at \$55 per barrel, but in line with the oil price set out in the 2020 budget.<sup>503</sup> The oil hedging program, the world's largest financial oil deal, is designed to protect Latin America's second-largest economy against oil price crashes.<sup>504</sup>

On 16 January 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador hailed the US Senate's approval of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade deal, forecasting it would deliver a boost to the Mexican economy.<sup>505</sup>

On 6 March 2020, In the framework of International Women's Day, celebrated on March 8 and proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1975, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (SRE), underlined its commitment to women's labour rights.<sup>506</sup> The foregoing was evident with the public delivery of the Multisite Certification of the Mexican Standard NMX-R-025-SCFI-2015 in Labor Equality and Non-Discrimination to the Ministry of Foreign Relations.<sup>507</sup> In this way, the Association for Standardization and Certification, AC (ANCE) awarded the Gold Level certification — after obtaining 97 points out of a possible 100 — to the Mexican Consulate General in Houston and the Benito Juárez Metropolitan Delegation.<sup>508</sup>

On 21 May 2020, Board of Directors of the North American Development Bank held its bi-annual public meeting virtually and announced the approval of a temporary financing program in response

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<sup>500</sup> Mexico to Increase General Minimum Wage by 20 Percent for 2020: Insights, Holland & Knight 16 December. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hklaw.com/en/insights/publications/2019/12/mexico-to-increase-general-minimum-wage-by-20-percent-for-2020>

<sup>501</sup> Mexican Central Bank Cuts Rates, Flags Higher Inflation Risk, Thomson Reuters, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-economy-rates/mexican-central-bank-cuts-rates-flags-higher-inflation-risk-idUSKBN1YN2JI>

<sup>502</sup> Mexico Hedges Oil Output for 2020 as Risks Grow, Thomson Reuters, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-hedge/mexico-hedges-oil-output-for-2020-as-risks-grow-idUSKBN1Z2277>

<sup>503</sup> Mexico Hedges Oil Output for 2020 as Risks Grow. Thomson Reuters, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-hedge/mexico-hedges-oil-output-for-2020-as-risks-grow-idUSKBN1Z2277>

<sup>504</sup> Mexico Hedges Oil Output for 2020 as Risks Grow. Thomson Reuters, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-hedge/mexico-hedges-oil-output-for-2020-as-risks-grow-idUSKBN1Z2277>

<sup>505</sup> Mexico Hails USMCA Trade Deal Approval, Expects More Investment. Thomson Reuters, 16 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-usmca-mexico/mexico-hails-usmca-trade-deal-approval-expects-more-investment-idUSKBN1ZF2GR>

<sup>506</sup> The SRE works to transform society by resolving substantive equality, Gob.mx 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/la-sre-trabaja-en-la-transformacion-de-la-sociedad-resolviendo-la-igualdad-sustantiva?idiom=es>

<sup>507</sup> The SRE works to transform society by resolving substantive equality, Gob.mx 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/la-sre-trabaja-en-la-transformacion-de-la-sociedad-resolviendo-la-igualdad-sustantiva?idiom=es>

<sup>508</sup> The SRE works to transform society by resolving substantive equality, Gob.mx 6 March 2020. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/la-sre-trabaja-en-la-transformacion-de-la-sociedad-resolviendo-la-igualdad-sustantiva?idiom=es>

to the consequences on economic activity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>509</sup> The objective is to support projects that provide an environmental benefit and generate direct positive impacts on the economy, health and well-being of the inhabitants of the border between Mexico and the United States.<sup>510</sup> The program will provide up to USD200 million and includes up to USD15 million of technical assistance.<sup>511</sup>

On 27 August 2020, the government of Parral, Chihuahua, more than 5,000 students from low-income families in Hidalgo del Parral, Chihuahua, applied to receive free tablets provided by the municipal government in order to facilitate federally mandated distance learning due to the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>512</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum presented an economic reactivation plan for the capital Wednesday that aims to create 300,000 jobs by the end of 2021.<sup>513</sup> The plan includes an investment of MXN40 billion (USD1.8 billion) by the Mexico City and federal governments to provide loans and other financial support to citizens and businesses, and spending MXN27 billion on educational, health, transportation and other urban infrastructure projects.<sup>514</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the central bank of Mexico cut its key interest rate by a quarter point, lowering borrowing costs to 4.25 per cent, while inflation remains above 4 per cent.<sup>515</sup> This is the 11<sup>th</sup> straight interest rate cut in a year, with the doors open for more cuts if need be.<sup>516</sup>

Mexico has taken steps towards promoting inclusive growth and towards safeguarding against downside risks.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shubdeep Randhava*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

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<sup>509</sup> Development Bank of North America approves recovery program for the COVID-19 pandemic, Gob.mx 23 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/banco-de-desarrollo-de-america-del-norte-aprueba-programa-de-recuperacion-por-la-pandemia-de-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>510</sup> Development Bank of North America approves recovery program for the COVID-19 pandemic, Gob.mx 23 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/banco-de-desarrollo-de-america-del-norte-aprueba-programa-de-recuperacion-por-la-pandemia-de-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>511</sup> Development Bank of North America approves recovery program for the COVID-19 pandemic, Gob.mx 23 May 2020. Access Date: 2 June 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/banco-de-desarrollo-de-america-del-norte-aprueba-programa-de-recuperacion-por-la-pandemia-de-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>512</sup> Students Offered Free Tablets for Virtual Classes: 5,000 Applied on First Day, Mexico News Daily, 27 August 2020. Access Date: 11 September 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/students-offered-free-tablets-for-distance-learning/>

<sup>513</sup> Mexico City Economic Reactivation Plan's Goal Is 300,000 Jobs, Mexico News Daily 3 September 2020, Access Date: 11 September 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/coronavirus/mexico-city-economic-reactivation-plan/>

<sup>514</sup> Mexico City Economic Reactivation Plan's Goal Is 300,000 Jobs, Mexico News Daily 3 September 2020, Access Date: 11 September 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/coronavirus/mexico-city-economic-reactivation-plan/>

<sup>515</sup> Mexico Slows Rate Cut Pace as Easing Cycle Nears End, Bloomberg Quint (Mexico City) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.bloomberquint.com/business/mexico-cuts-key-rate-by-quarter-point-as-easing-cycle-nears-end>

<sup>516</sup> Mexico Slows Rate Cut Pace as Easing Cycle Nears End, Bloomberg Quint (Mexico City) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.bloomberquint.com/business/mexico-cuts-key-rate-by-quarter-point-as-easing-cycle-nears-end>

On 2 August 2019, President Vladimir Putin signed Federal Law on Ratification of the Agreement between Russia and Egypt on Comprehensive Partnership and Strategic Cooperation.<sup>517</sup> The agreement stipulates that the parties support developing cooperation in commercial and economic fields.

On 5 September 2019, President Putin approved the provision of subsidies that bring mortgage interest rates to two per cent for young families in the Far Eastern Federal District.<sup>518</sup>

On 25 October 2019, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed the Agreement on the Free Trade Zone between the Eurasian Economic Union and its member states, on the one side, and Serbia, on the other side.<sup>519</sup>

On 2 November 2019, Prime Minister Medvedev signed the new edition of the Programme of Multilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states at the Heads of Government Council Meeting.<sup>520</sup>

On 1 January 2020, the Pension Fund raised the maternity (family) capital from RUB453,026 to RUB466,617.<sup>521,522</sup>

On 20 February 2020, President Putin announced RUB25.7 trillion government investment in improving the quality of the economic environment and economic growth, health care, digital economy and infrastructure.<sup>523</sup>

On 20 February 2020, consultations between representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Russia have focused on the key results of projects funded by the country's voluntary contributions to UNIDO's Industrial Development Fund.<sup>524</sup> The projects focused on promoting economic growth and development and were implemented in Armenia, Cuba, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

On 12 September 2020, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov stated that Russia's public debt will remain below the level of debt of developing countries as a measure to ensure macroeconomic stability.<sup>525</sup> National debt will be brought up to 20 per cent of GDP in 2021.<sup>526</sup>

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<sup>517</sup> The law ratifying the agreement between Russia and Egypt on comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation, President of Russia (Moscow). 02 August 2019. Access date: 2 February 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/61221>

<sup>518</sup> Instructions following Eastern Economic Forum Plenary meeting. President of Russia (Moscow). 21 September 2019. Access date: 31 January 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/61602>

<sup>519</sup> Eurasian Intergovernmental Council meeting, The Russian Government (Moscow). 25 October 2019. Access date: 25 January 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/38189/>

<sup>520</sup> The SCO Heads of Government Council Meeting. The Russian Government (Moscow). 02 November 2019. Access date: 1 February 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/38252/>

<sup>521</sup> What you need to know about maternity capital (in Russian). Access date: 2 February 2020. [http://www.pfrf.ru/grazdanam/family\\_capital/chto\\_nuzh\\_znat/](http://www.pfrf.ru/grazdanam/family_capital/chto_nuzh_znat/)

<sup>522</sup> Maternity (Family) Capital. Access date: 2 February 2020. <http://www.pfrf.ru/en/matcap/>

<sup>523</sup> National Projects: Russia's New Development Paradigm, Valdai (Moscow). 20 February 2020. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://valdaiclub.com/a/highlights/national-projects-russia-s-new-development/>

<sup>524</sup> UNIDO and the Russian Federation discuss key results within Russia-funded projects and plan future joint work, Valdai (Moscow). 20 February 2020. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://valdaiclub.com/a/highlights/national-projects-russia-s-new-development/>

<sup>525</sup> Russia will keep low level of public debt to ensure macroeconomic stability – experts, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1200055>

<sup>526</sup> Russia will keep low level of public debt to ensure macroeconomic stability – experts, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1200055>

On 18 September 2020, the Bank of Russia announced it would keep the key rate at 4.25 per cent per annum, following four rounds of reduction.<sup>527</sup> This was based on the increase of price growth rates, driven by “an active recovery of demand after the lockdown and the weakening of the ruble on the back of generally increased volatility on global markets and higher geopolitical risks,” but the Bank of Russia will monitor the situation and consider further key rate reductions.<sup>528</sup>

On 6 October 2020, President Putin called for the federal budget for 2021-2023 to specifically focus on implementing social obligations and national goals.<sup>529</sup> These policies should include expanding the demographic program, strengthening the mechanisms of social protection with an emphasis on families with child, developing education and health care, and continuing the measures from the spring and summer that support citizens, employment, key industries and SMEs.<sup>530</sup>

Russia has taken actions to promote inclusive growth and safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, it is given a score of +1.

*Analyst: Olga Tumurova*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 September 2019, the Saudi General Entertainment Authority announced the launch of new license packaged for entertainment projects in Saudi Arabia, thereby hoping to increase the economic activity in the Saudi entertainment sector and to attract investments.<sup>531</sup>

On 9 September 2019, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced plans to list Saudi Aramco on the Riyadh stock exchange. Doing so is expected to contribute to the diversification of the Saudi economy away from oil.<sup>532</sup>

On 11 September 2019, SAMI Navantia Naval Industries, a joint venture between Saudi Arabian Military Industries and Navantia S.A., signed a contract with the Spanish shipbuilder Navantia to

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<sup>527</sup> Bank of Russia keeps key rate at 4.25% after four rounds of reduction, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1202385>

<sup>528</sup> Bank of Russia keeps key rate at 4.25% after four rounds of reduction, TASS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1202385>

<sup>529</sup> Social commitments should be priority of budget for 2021-2023, says President Putin, TAS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1209191>

<sup>530</sup> Social commitments should be priority of budget for 2021-2023, says President Putin, TAS Russian News Agency (Moscow) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://tass.com/economy/1209191>

<sup>531</sup> GEA launches new licensing package to boost the entertainment sector's economic activity, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 01 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1964039>

<sup>532</sup> Saudi plans gradual share sale at home for Aramco, Al Jazeera (Doha), 09 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/saudi-plans-gradual-share-sale-home-aramco-190909154538633.html>

collaborate on Combat System Integration.<sup>533</sup> The collaboration is expected to contribute to the transfer of technology and to create new job opportunities in Saudi Arabia.<sup>534</sup>

On 11 September 2019, Minister of Finance Mohammed bin Abdullah Al-Jadaan indicated that Saudi Arabia will continue to provide strong support to the Fund for International Development of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. The fund is a major contributor to development finance in 130 developing countries.<sup>535</sup>

On 18 September 2019, Minister Al-Jadaan declared the subscription of Saudi Arabia to the Special Data Dissemination Standard of the International Monetary Fund that regulates the provision of economic and financial data to the public.<sup>536</sup> This step aims at enhancing financial disclosure and transparency in accordance with international standards, thereby contributing to a positive investment climate and confidence in the Saudi economy.<sup>537</sup>

On 27 September 2020, Saudi Arabia launched a visa regime for 49 countries.<sup>538</sup> The opening is expected to boost the local tourism industry, creating thousands of jobs.<sup>539</sup>

On 17 October 2019, King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) announced to organize a forum to introduce the Ibn Khaldun Fellowship Program for female Saudi scientists and engineers who hold a doctoral degree.<sup>540</sup> By offering Saudi female researchers an opportunity to cooperate with MIT faculty members, Saudi Arabia hopes to strengthen the research environment in Saudi universities.<sup>541</sup>

On 28 October 2019, King Abdulaziz and his Companions Foundation for Giftedness and Creativity and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization signed a letter of intent to promote international scientific cooperation in education in science, technology, engineering and mathematics as a key driver for sustainable economic growth.<sup>542</sup>

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<sup>533</sup> SAMI-Navantia signs €900 million contract with Navantia to localize 60% of naval industries and ToT, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 11 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1967835>

<sup>534</sup> SAMI-Navantia signs €900 million contract with Navantia to localize 60% of naval industries and ToT, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 11 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1967835>

<sup>535</sup> KSA Continues its Full Support to OFID, Minister of Finance reported, Saudi Press Agency, (Riyadh), 11 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1968127>

<sup>536</sup> Saudi Arabia Subscribes to the IMF's Special Data Dissemination Standard, International Monetary Fund (Washington), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2019/09/18/pr19338-saudi-arabia-subscribes-to-the-imfs-special-data-dissemination-standard>

<sup>537</sup> Saudi Arabia Subscribes to IMF's SDDS, Saudi Press Agency, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1971495>

<sup>538</sup> Saudi Arabia to open up to foreign tourists with new visas, BBC (London), 27 September 2019. Access Date:

06.02.2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-49848068>

<sup>539</sup> Saudi Arabia Opens Door to Tourists from All Over the World, Attracts SR 115 Billions 3 Riyadh, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 28 September 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1974988>

<sup>540</sup> KACST and MIT organize a forum to introduce Ibn Khaldun Fellowship Program, Saudi Press Agency, 17 October 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1983661>

<sup>541</sup> KACST and MIT organize a forum to introduce Ibn Khaldun Fellowship Program, Saudi Press Agency, 17 October 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1983661>

<sup>542</sup> Mawhiba, UNESCO Sign Letter of Intent to Build Strong Partnership and Promote International Scientific Cooperation, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 28 October 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1987601>



On 29 October 2019, the Saudi Arabian General Investment Authority announced the signing and exchange of 23 investment agreements, which are expected to contribute to the diversification of the Saudi economy and will bring great new jobs.<sup>543</sup>

On 6 November 2019, the government signed an agreement with the World Economic Forum to establish a branch of its Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Saudi Arabia.<sup>544</sup> The centre will promote the development and adoption of technologies and best practices to harness the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the region.<sup>545</sup>

On 13 November 2019, the Ministry of Culture signed an agreement with the Andrea Bocelli Foundation to provide psychosocial support for disadvantaged children and youths in Saudi Arabia through music education.<sup>546</sup> Doing so, the project attempts to empower disadvantaged children and stimulate innovation.<sup>547</sup>

On 24 November 2019, SAMI Navantia Naval Industries, a joint project between the Saudi Arabian Military Industries and Navantia S.A., launched its On-the-Job Training program.<sup>548</sup> By training naval engineers, the project contributes to Saudi Arabia's aim to localize 50 per cent of its military equipment spending by 2030.<sup>549</sup>

On 25 November 2019, the Disabled People Association in partnership with the Institute of Public Administration launched the Kafaah Initiative.<sup>550</sup> By training disabled government employees, the initiative seeks to enhance the working opportunities of disabled employees in public institutions.<sup>551</sup>

On 25 November 2019, Saudi Arabia joined the Information for All Programme.<sup>552</sup> The program aims to promote access to information through digitization and preservation and supports training in communication and information based on international standards and best practices.<sup>553</sup>

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<sup>543</sup> US\$15 billion in new foreign investment deals signed at the Future Investment Initiative, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 29 October 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1988731>

<sup>544</sup> Saudi Arabia and World Economic Forum to set up Fourth Industrial Revolution centre, The National Business (Abu Dhabi), 06 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.thenational.ae/business/economy/saudi-arabia-and-world-economic-forum-to-set-up-fourth-industrial-revolution-centre-1.934270>

<sup>545</sup> Saudi Arabia Signs Agreement with the World Economic Forum to Establish a Branch in the Kingdom of the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 06 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1995378>

<sup>546</sup> The Saudi Ministry of Culture partners with Andrea Bocelli Foundation in "Voices of the World" programme, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 13 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1998237>

<sup>547</sup> The Saudi Ministry of Culture partners with Andrea Bocelli Foundation in "Voices of the World" programme, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 13 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1998237>

<sup>548</sup> SAMINavantia Launches On-Job Training Program with First Batch of Saudi Engineers, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 24 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002417>

<sup>549</sup> SAMINavantia Launches On-Job Training Program with First Batch of Saudi Engineers, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 24 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002417>

<sup>550</sup> Disabled People Association and Institute of Public Administration Launch "Kafaah" Initiative, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 25 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002720>

<sup>551</sup> Disabled People Association and Institute of Public Administration Launch "Kafaah" Initiative, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 25 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002720>

<sup>552</sup> KSA Joins Information for All Programme (IFAP), Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 25 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002667>

On 9 December 2019, the Human Resources Development Fund (Hadaf) changed and updated its regulations for Female Transportation.<sup>554</sup> The program aims at promoting safe commuting services and reducing the transportation costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.<sup>555</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the Saudi Minister of Economy and Planning Mohammad bin Mazid Al-Tuwajri and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Korea Kang Kyung-Wha signed an agreement between the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology and the Korea Institute of Ceramic Engineering and Technology to promote, and cooperate in, energy efficiency.<sup>556</sup>

On 18 December 2019, King Abdulaziz announced that Riyadh is to become the first digital capital city in the Arab world by 2020.<sup>557</sup> This initiative seeks to encourage investment in information and communications technology (ICT), enhance tech entrepreneurship in the Arab region and develop knowledge on ICT in the region.<sup>558</sup>

On 24 December 2019, Hadaf launched the electronic Career Education and Development Portal “Subol.”<sup>559</sup> It provides education and career guidance for students, job seekers, employers and employees that aim to help the target groups to identify labour market trends and career paths.<sup>560</sup>

On 27 December 2019, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property held a three-day training program for intellectual property support centres.<sup>561</sup> The course equipped more than 60 participants from public and private institutions with the relevant knowledge to manage intellectual property rights to support innovation and economic development.<sup>562</sup>

On 31 December 2019, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund announced the expansion of financing the mining sector, thereby increasing non-oil job opportunities.<sup>563</sup>

On 1 January 2020, the Saudi Electric Services Polytechnic and MAERSK signed two cooperation and training agreements to cooperate in the field of renewable energy and heavy equipment in Saudi Arabia.<sup>564</sup>

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<sup>553</sup> KSA Joins Information for All Programme (IFAP), Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 25 November 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2002667>

<sup>554</sup> Hadaf Updates Female Transportation Program “Wusool”, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 09 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2008698>

<sup>555</sup> Hadaf Updates Female Transportation Program “Wusool”, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 09 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2008698>

<sup>556</sup> Saudi-Korean Joint Committee Holds Meetings of the 19th Session in Riyadh, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2012838>

<sup>557</sup> Riyadh set to become Arab world’s first digital capital in 2020, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2012917>

<sup>558</sup> Riyadh set to become Arab world’s first digital capital in 2020, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2012917>

<sup>559</sup> Hadaf Launches Career Education and Development Portal to Empower National Cadres, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 24 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2014615>

<sup>560</sup> Hadaf Launches Career Education and Development Portal to Empower National Cadres, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 24 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2014615>

<sup>561</sup> Training Camp Programs for the Intellectual Property Support Centers Launched, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 27 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2015705>

<sup>562</sup> Training Camp Programs for the Intellectual Property Support Centers Launched, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 27 December 2019. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2015705>

<sup>563</sup> SIDF expands financing of mining sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 31 December 2019. Access: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2016904>

On 1 January 2020, the Saudi Aviation Association signed a memorandum of understanding with BAE System Saudi Development and Training.<sup>565</sup> Among other things, it aims to enhance training programs for youth in the company.

On 2 January 2020, the Ministry of Culture signed two memoranda of cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation.<sup>566</sup> The aim is to improve cultural education in public and higher education institutions.<sup>567</sup>

On 5 January 2020, the Salam Project for Cultural Communication launched the third edition of the Young Leaders Global Communication Program.<sup>568</sup> It attempts to enhance the cultural knowledge and communication skills of 60 male and female youths through a series of courses and workshops.<sup>569</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Hadaf and the Saudi Abyat Building Materials Academy signed a memorandum of cooperation to train Saudi works in the construction and building sector through specialized training programs.<sup>570</sup> The aim of this initiative is to meet the needs of the labour market.<sup>571</sup>

On 4 February 2020, Prince Faisal bin Bandar bin Abdulaziz, Governor of the Riyadh Region, announced the adoption of two initiatives to enhance the protection of women and children in cyberspace.<sup>572</sup> Part of this is to be achieved by providing women with enhanced training in cyber security and empowering them to occupy leading positions in the cyber security sector.<sup>573</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the Saudi National Cybersecurity Authority signed a memorandum of understanding with NEOM company to develop capabilities in cybersecurity technologies for smart cities.<sup>574</sup>

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<sup>564</sup> SESP signs cooperation agreement with MAERSK, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 01 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2017345>

<sup>565</sup> Saudi Aviation Association and BAE Systems Sing MoU, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 01 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2017255>

<sup>566</sup> Ministry of Culture Signs Memorandums of Cooperation with Ministry of Education and TVTC, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 02 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2018748>

<sup>567</sup> Ministry of Culture Signs Memorandums of Cooperation with Ministry of Education and TVTC, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 02 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2018748>

<sup>568</sup> Salam Project for Cultural Communication Launches Young Saudi Leaders of Global Communication Program 3rd edition, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2019253>

<sup>569</sup> Salam Project for Cultural Communication Launches Young Saudi Leaders of Global Communication Program 3rd edition, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2019253>

<sup>570</sup> Hadaf Signs a Memorandum of Cooperation with Abyat Academy to Train Saudi Cadres in Construction Sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 23 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2025774>

<sup>571</sup> Hadaf Signs a Memorandum of Cooperation with Abyat Academy to Train Saudi Cadres in Construction Sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 23 January 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2025774>

<sup>572</sup> Crown Prince adopts two new initiatives on Cybersecurity, Governor of Riyadh Region announces, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 04 February 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2030534>

<sup>573</sup> Crown Prince adopts two new initiatives on Cybersecurity, Governor of Riyadh Region announces, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 04 February 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2030534>

<sup>574</sup> Global Cybersecurity Forum Witnesses Signing of Five MoUs, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 February 2020. Access Date: 06.02.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2031017>

On 5 February 2020, the Saudi Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman hosted the Clean Energy and Innovation Mission, in which 24 countries and the European Union participated.<sup>575</sup> The meeting discussed ways to accelerate and increase investments in research and development of clean energy as well as private sector collaborations in the field.<sup>576</sup>

On 15 March 2020, during a phone call with United Kingdom Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Crown Prince Salman stressed Saudi Arabia's intention to coordinate efforts to alleviate the economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic through the G20.<sup>577</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) decided to cut the Repo Rate from 1.75 per cent to 1 per cent and the Reverse Repo Rate from 1.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent in order to preserve monetary stability in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>578</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Ministry of Investment announced the establishment of a special task force to support businesses and investors in countering the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>579</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the General Authority for Ports announced the launch of a new shipping line connecting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with East African countries.<sup>580</sup> The new shipping line is part of efforts to develop the capabilities and enhance the competitiveness of Saudi ports, which is expected to increase non-oil state revenues.<sup>581</sup>

On 21 March 2020, the Ministry of Investment established a COVID-19 Response Centre to support business continuity and to mitigate negative ramifications that businesses face due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>582</sup> The centre developed a business continuity playbook to advice stakeholders on best practices and serves as an interface to communicate government services and regulations to the business community.<sup>583</sup>

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<sup>575</sup> In presence of Minister of Energy, preparatory meeting for clean energy and mission of innovation (CEM11/MI5) concluded with participation of 24 countries, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2031069>

<sup>576</sup> In presence of Minister of Energy, preparatory meeting for clean energy and mission of innovation (CEM11/MI5) concluded with participation of 24 countries, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2031069>

<sup>577</sup> HRH the Crown Prince received phone call from British Prime Minister, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2047986>

<sup>578</sup> SAMA's decision on repo and reverse repo rates, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2048195>

<sup>579</sup> Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Investment Deploys Taskforce to Ensure Business Continuity Amid Office Closures, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2048799>

<sup>580</sup> A New Shipping Line Between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and East Africa Launched, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2048978>

<sup>581</sup> A New Shipping Line Between Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and East Africa Launched, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2048978>

<sup>582</sup> MISA COVID-19 Response Center (MCRC) supports business continuity for more than 7,000 investors in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2050013>

<sup>583</sup> MISA COVID-19 Response Center (MCRC) supports business continuity for more than 7,000 investors in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 21 March 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2050013>

On 25 March 2020, the Saudi Capital Market Authority issued a statement to indicate precautionary measures that it has taken in order to assist market participants during the COVID-19 pandemic and to preserve market stability.<sup>584</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Saudi Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources launched 27 measures to support private industrial and mining enterprises and investors in coping with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>585</sup> Measures include, inter alia, discounts on electricity bills, a loan scheme with reduced interest rates and payment deferrals for the year 2020, and extending investment agreements.<sup>586</sup> The measures are part of the Kingdom's COVID-19 emergency response plan.<sup>587</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the Saudi Agricultural Development fund approved loans worth more than SAR333 million that will be used to support 12 projects during the COVID-19 initiative as well as to import food items.<sup>588</sup> The loans are part of a set of measures that is aimed at supporting the private sector and mitigating the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>589</sup>

On 1 June 2020, SAMA announced an injection of SAR50 billion into the banking sector in order to enhance banking liquidity and through this ensure the stability and functioning of the banking sector. This decision is aimed at preserving financial stability and supporting both banking and the private sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>590</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the Saudi Cabinet transferred ownership of four milling companies to the Saudi National Centre of Privatization, thereby promoting privatization efforts in the country.<sup>591</sup> Investment in the flour mills is expected to boost the productivity of the private sector.<sup>592</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund announced several aid packages for small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) that are aimed at supporting SMEs in coping with the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>593</sup> Besides this, it announced measures to support the

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<sup>584</sup> CMA Follows Financial Market and Reviews Constantly all Precautionary Measures for Its Stability, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 25 March 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2051434>

<sup>585</sup> Saudi Arabia's Government launches measures to support industrial & mining sectors in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 May 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2082598>

<sup>586</sup> Saudi Arabia's Government launches measures to support industrial & mining sectors in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 May 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2082598>

<sup>587</sup> Saudi Arabia's Government launches measures to support industrial & mining sectors in response to COVID-19 pandemic, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 05 May 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2082598>

<sup>588</sup> Agricultural Development Fund approves agricultural loans worth more than SR 333 million, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 May 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2088954>

<sup>589</sup> Agricultural Development Fund approves agricultural loans worth more than SR 333 million, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 18 May 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2088954>

<sup>590</sup> SAMA Boosts Banking Sector Liquidity With SAR 50 Billion, Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Riyadh), 01 June 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/news-574.aspx>

<sup>591</sup> Ownership of Four Milling Companies Transferred to National Center of Privatization, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 11 June 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2097226>

<sup>592</sup> Ownership of Four Milling Companies Transferred to National Center of Privatization, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 11 June 2020. Access Date: 3 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2097226>

<sup>593</sup> SIDF: 536 Industrial facilities benefit from Support Initiatives worth SR 3.7 Billion, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2098671>

medicines sector as well as the industrial sector as a whole in an effort to preserve the national industry from being affected by the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>594</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Ports Authority and the Public Investment Fund owned SALIC company signed an agreement to develop a grain terminal in Yanbu Commercial Port.<sup>595</sup> The grain terminal will support the import, processing and export of grains in Saudi Arabia, and is expected to enhance regional food distribution as well as economic growth.<sup>596</sup>

On 1 September 2020, SAMA announced to extend its Deferred Payments Programme for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises for an additional three months.<sup>597</sup> The extension is intended to further enable the financial sector to support the private sector, thereby preserving and promoting economic growth and employment.<sup>598</sup>

Overall, Saudi Arabia has taken active action to promote stable economic growth by diversifying its economy and promoting a positive investment climate through confidence and transparency. Through conducting training programs for youth, women, and disabled people, Saudi Arabia attempted to promote inclusive growth and market access for marginalized groups of society. Saudi Arabia has moreover taken several measures against downside risks, such as investing in non-oil sectors and increasing financial transparency. Saudi Arabia has hence complied with all elements of the commitment.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Katharina Kuhn*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 2 July 2019, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal Province Sihle Zikalala signed a travel agency agreement with China Comfort Tourism Group. The premier points out that KwaZulu-Natal expected to benefit handsomely from an agreement sealed with a giant Chinese travel agency due to the hundreds of thousands of incoming Chinese tourists.<sup>599</sup>

On 27 August 2019, Premier Zikalala announced multi-billion investment into Kwazulu-Natal economy, this investment included a ZAR6.5 billion commitment by Richards Bay Minerals, a ZAR1.5 billion investment by the Mara Group, which it has injected into its cellphone manufacturing

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<sup>594</sup> SIDF: 536 Industrial facilities benefit from Support Initiatives worth SR 3.7 Billion, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2098671>

<sup>595</sup> Constructing the First and Largest Regional Grain Terminal in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 23 July 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2113281>

<sup>596</sup> Constructing the First and Largest Regional Grain Terminal in Saudi Arabia, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh), 23 July 2020. Access Date: 8 September 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2113281>

<sup>597</sup> SAMA extends deferred payments program for 3 months, Saudi Monetary Authority (Riyadh), 01 September 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/news-605.aspx>

<sup>598</sup> SAMA extends deferred payments program for 3 months, Saudi Monetary Authority (Riyadh), 01 September 2020. Access Date: 9 September 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/news-605.aspx>

<sup>599</sup> KwaZulu-Natal benefits from Chinese travel agency agreement, South African Government(Durban) 3 July 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/giant-chinese-travel-agency-3-jul-2019-0000>

operations at the Dube Trade Port Special Economic Zone, a ZAR40 billion investment by Toyota, ZAR1 billion from Sumitomo Rubber and an ZAR8 billion investment from Mondi.<sup>600</sup>

On 1 November 2019, Premier of Free State province Sisi Ntombela launched the 2019 Investment Prospectus in the inaugural Free State Investment Conference. All the projects in the prospectus (which included renewable energy, agriculture, mining, manufacturing, aviation, engineering, agro-processing and infrastructure industries) require ZAR123 billions of which ZAR16 billion has been invested by the private sector to date, leaving a net shortfall of ZAR108 billion and when completed will create 21,240 jobs.<sup>601</sup>

On 5 November 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa introduced Africa's first automotive Special Economic Zone in Gauteng province. This project is feasible and necessary to add momentum towards turning Gauteng City Region into a single, multi-tier and integrated special economic zone.<sup>602</sup>

On 6 November 2019, President Ramaphosa led the government in hosting this momentous Second South Africa investment conference. The conference focused on the green economy as well as the role of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in unlocking the potential of young people. The manufacturing, the role of tourism in the country's growth trajectory and the opportunities in the agro-processing industry were also the main discussion topics through the conference.<sup>603</sup>

On 1 January 2020, President Ramaphosa, has addressed the South African Heads of Mission accredited to countries on the African continent, these include economic integration across the continent and the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the economic and financial inclusion of women and the fight against gender based violence, and the promotion of good governance.<sup>604</sup>

On 2 February 2020, Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities David Maynier launched start-up online investment course to boost Western Cape digital economy growth which can offer opportunities for those who understand the risks and rewards of early-stage investing.<sup>605</sup>

On 3 February 2020, Department of Economic Development and Tourism recognized load shedding support available for businesses in the Western Cape, this movement had a major impact to the bottom line of businesses, affects the economy negatively and possibly results in job losses.<sup>606</sup>

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<sup>600</sup> Premier Sihle Zikalala announces multi-billion investment into KwaZulu-Natal economy, South African Government (Durban) 7 August 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/kwazulu-natal-economy-receive-multi-billion-capital-injection-next-few-months-27-aug-2019>

<sup>601</sup> Free State Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs launches 2019 Investment Prospectus, South African Government (Bloemfontein) 1 November 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-state-ready-do-business-1-nov-2019-0000>

<sup>602</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa launches Africa's first automotive Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Gauteng, South African Government (Pretoria) 5 November 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-launches-africa%E2%80%99s-first-automotive-special-economic-zone-sez>

<sup>603</sup> Government on South Africa Investment Conference, South African Government (Pretoria) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/all-systems-6-nov-2019-0000>

<sup>604</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa calls on business to support African's economic aspirations, South African Government (Pretoria) 28 January 2020. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/business-support-28-jan-2020-0000>

<sup>605</sup> MEC David Maynier launches start-up online investment course to boost Western Cape digital economy growth, South African Government (Pretoria) 3 February 2020. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/free-start-investor-course-launched-boost-digital-economy-growth-western-cape-3-feb-2020>

On 7 February 2020, DEDAT of the government of South Africa has announced that they are going to launch a series of methods supporting businesses to beat load shedding in Western Cape Province. One of the ways to achieve energy security is through the installation of solar photo-voltaic in citizens' business or home.<sup>607</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the Department of Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism of the North West province announced that they will continue to finance Bophelo ba Nnete Building Co-operative. With the assistance from the government, the Bophelo ba Nnete cooperative can receive an operational tool to increase their production. This is part of the government intervention aimed at building sufficient capacity to create sustainable enterprises.<sup>608</sup>

On 29 March 2020, Minister of Finance Tito Mboweni has declared a series of exceptional tax measures as part of the fiscal package outlined by President Ramaphosa on the escalation of Measures to Combat COVID-19. The measures included tax subsidy for workers, and tax turnover and delay for businesses, more than 4 million workers and 75,000 businesses can be benefited from this policy.<sup>609</sup>

On 23 May 2020, Minister of Small Business Development Khumbudzo Ntshavheni announced the second wave of support for informal, micro, and small enterprise including cooperatives based in townships and villages. This project is used to help the small businesses which owned by South African to recover after the pandemic.<sup>610</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the South African Reserve Bank declared that they will implement collateral substitution in terms of the weekly main repurchase auctions operations. This monetary policy provides liquidity to the commercial banks in exchange for eligible securities.<sup>611</sup>

On 13 August 2020, the National Economic Development and Labour Council set up a high-level working team to finalize an urgent economic recovery program. The team will focus on such areas as job creation, having a sectoral approach, prioritizing infrastructure, the need for urgent attention on energy security and working on the bottlenecks to economic growth.<sup>612</sup>

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<sup>606</sup> Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism supports businesses to beat load shedding, South African Government (Pretoria) 7 February 2020. Access Date 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/load-shedding-support-available-businesses-western-cape-7-feb-2020-0000>

<sup>607</sup> Western Cape Economic Development and Tourism supports businesses to beat load shedding, South Africa Government (Pretoria) 7 February 2020. Access Date 15 March 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/load-shedding-support-available-businesses-western-cape-7-feb-2020-0000>

<sup>608</sup> North West Finance on Bophelo ba Nnete Building Co-operative, South Africa Government (Pretoria) 9 March 2020. Access Date 15 March 2020 <https://www.gov.za/speeches/bophelo-ba-nnete-building-co-operative-doing-well-and-keen-expand-its-customer-base-9-mar>

<sup>609</sup> Minister Tito Mboweni announced tax measures to combat Coronavirus Covid-19 lockdown (Johannesburg) 29 Mar 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://www.gov.za/speeches/tax-measures-combat-covid-19-pandemic-29-mar-2020-0000>

<sup>610</sup> Minister Khumbudzo Ntshavheni announces second wave of support for enterprises based in townships and villages during Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic (Johannesburg) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://www.gov.za/speeches/department-small-business-development-announces-second-wave-support-enterprises-based>

<sup>611</sup> Reserve Bank on collateral substitution in terms of repurchase operations (Johannesburg) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020 <https://www.gov.za/speeches/reserve-bank-collateral-substitution-repurchase-operations-15-jun-2020-0000>

<sup>612</sup> Presidency on NEDLAC setting up high-level team to finalise economic recovery programme (Johannesburg) 13<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020, Access Date: 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 <https://www.gov.za/speeches/presidency-nedlac-setting-high-level-team-finalise-economic-recovery-programme-13-aug-2020>



South Africa has taken actions to both promote inclusive growth, as well as to safeguard against downside risk.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Zimu Zhao*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment to inclusive growth and protection against downside risk.

On 1 October 2019, Minister of Trade Ruhsar Peckan signed a framework agreement between Turkey and Jordan for a joint economic committee to boost bilateral trade and economic relations. This agreement aims to enhance macroeconomic cooperation between the two countries.<sup>613</sup>

Turkey has taken actions that safeguard against downside risk but not actions that promote inclusive growth.

Thus, it is given a score of 0.

*Analyst: Olga Tumurova*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 July 2019, ministers from Scotland and England signed a growth deal for the border region between England and Scotland.<sup>614</sup> The deal entails GBP394.5 million worth of investment in districts on both sides of the border and aims at accelerating economic development in the region, creating jobs and encouraging future investments.<sup>615</sup>

On 13 July 2019, during his visit to Kenya, International Development Secretary Rory Stewart announced a UK aid package to tackle climate change in several African countries.<sup>616</sup> The package supports sub-Saharan African countries to build resilience to climate change and develop low carbon economies.<sup>617</sup>

On 17 July 2019, Chancellor of the Exchequer Philipp Hammond announced that the United Kingdom will contribute GBP15 million to a World Bank's Identification for Development (ID4D)

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<sup>613</sup> Turkey, Jordan sign agreement to boost bilateral trade, Anadolu Agency (Istanbul). 02 October 2019. Access date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-jordan-sign-agreement-to-boost-bilateral-trade/1599568>

<sup>614</sup> Boost for Borderlands: Growth Deal signed, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-borderlands-growth-deal-signed>

<sup>615</sup> Boost for Borderlands: Growth Deal signed, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 1 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boost-for-borderlands-growth-deal-signed>

<sup>616</sup> UK aid's biggest ever single direct commitment to tackle climate change in Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 13 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aids-biggest-ever-single-direct-commitment-to-tackle-climate-change-in-africa>

<sup>617</sup> UK aid's biggest ever single direct commitment to tackle climate change in Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 13 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aids-biggest-ever-single-direct-commitment-to-tackle-climate-change-in-africa>

initiative.<sup>618</sup> By providing identification documents to unregistered people in poor communities, the initiatives aim at alleviating poverty.<sup>619</sup>

On 18 July 2019, the Education Secretary Damian Hinds launched the National Retraining Scheme.<sup>620</sup> The related digital service Get Help to Retrain offers adults help to discover new opportunities and to build their career based on local job and training opportunities.<sup>621</sup> The scheme aims to fit the labour market to the needs of the smart and digital economy.<sup>622</sup>

On 19 July 2019, Business Minister Lord Henley introduced a new economic blueprint to develop the South East Midlands.<sup>623</sup> Plans are directed at turning the area into a centre of investing and implementing new technology, which is expected to create new jobs and opportunities in the area.<sup>624</sup> Economic Blueprints were introduced for Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as well as Oxfordshire.<sup>625</sup> The blueprints set out plans for how to increase earning power and opportunities for people and businesses in the regions by building on their unique strengths.<sup>626</sup>

On 22 July 2019, the government unveiled a GBP80 million investment to promote the development of electric vehicles and hybrid aircrafts.<sup>627</sup> Through the investment, the Government wants to contribute to tackling climate change and to promote clean growth.<sup>628</sup>

On 22 July 2019, the government launched a new research and development competition for projects aiming to radically increase the productivity and agility of UK manufacturing.<sup>629</sup>

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<sup>618</sup> UK takes action to help world's poorest access financial and public services, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-action-to-help-worlds-poorest-access-financial-and-public-services>

<sup>619</sup> UK takes action to help world's poorest access financial and public services, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-action-to-help-worlds-poorest-access-financial-and-public-services>

<sup>620</sup> Scheme to help adults retrain gets underway, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 18 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scheme-to-help-adults-retrain-gets-underway>

<sup>621</sup> Scheme to help adults retrain gets underway, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 18 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scheme-to-help-adults-retrain-gets-underway>

<sup>622</sup> Scheme to help adults retrain gets underway, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 18 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scheme-to-help-adults-retrain-gets-underway>

<sup>623</sup> Innovation and commercialisation at heart of new economic plan for South East Midlands, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovation-and-commercialisation-at-heart-of-new-economic-plan-for-south-east-midlands>

<sup>624</sup> Innovation and commercialisation at heart of new economic plan for South East Midlands, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/innovation-and-commercialisation-at-heart-of-new-economic-plan-for-south-east-midlands>

<sup>625</sup> Five new regional economic blueprints launched in boost to jobs and growth, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/five-new-regional-economic-blueprints-launched-in-boost-to-jobs-and-growth>

<sup>626</sup> Five new regional economic blueprints launched in boost to jobs and growth, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/five-new-regional-economic-blueprints-launched-in-boost-to-jobs-and-growth>

<sup>627</sup> New investment to drive forward next generation of net zero planes and cars, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-investment-to-drive-forward-next-generation-of-net-zero-planes-and-cars>

<sup>628</sup> New investment to drive forward next generation of net zero planes and cars, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-investment-to-drive-forward-next-generation-of-net-zero-planes-and-cars>

On 8 August 2019, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab signed a new partnership with Mexico that is aimed at promoting sustainable and inclusive economic growth in both countries.<sup>630</sup> Besides political cooperation, the partnership promotes investment and trade in a variety of sectors.<sup>631</sup> The UK Government will moreover support Mexico in tackling poverty and inequality, thereby opening up markets for UK businesses.<sup>632</sup>

On 16 August 2019, Tourism Minister Rebecca Pow launched a competition to enhance broadband facilities in conference centres across the United Kingdom, thereby supporting the business events sector.<sup>633</sup> The funding will help venues to attract more international business events, which in turn is expected to promote economic growth and encourage trade and investment.<sup>634</sup>

On 17 August 2019, Chancellor Sajid Javid announced a fund of over GBP600 million in support of the building of the new homes.<sup>635</sup> The fund will especially focus on infrastructure investments that are necessary to increase housing.<sup>636</sup>

On 24 August 2019, the government announced a GBP5 million investment into research on low carbon transport.<sup>637</sup> The research will enhance economic growth and productivity in the respective research hubs while contributing to sustainable growth.<sup>638</sup>

On 25 August 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced that the United Kingdom will provide support to female entrepreneurs and business women across Africa through

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<sup>629</sup> UK advanced manufacturing gets boost with new investment in digital tech competition, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 22 July 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-advanced-manufacturing-gets-boost-with-new-investment-in-digital-tech-competition>

<sup>630</sup> Foreign Secretary to sign landmark agreement to boost economic growth in UK and Mexico, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 08 August 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-to-sign-landmark-agreement-to-boost-economic-growth-in-uk-and-mexico>

<sup>631</sup> Foreign Secretary to sign landmark agreement to boost economic growth in UK and Mexico, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 08 August 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-to-sign-landmark-agreement-to-boost-economic-growth-in-uk-and-mexico>

<sup>632</sup> Foreign Secretary to sign landmark agreement to boost economic growth in UK and Mexico, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 08 August 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/foreign-secretary-to-sign-landmark-agreement-to-boost-economic-growth-in-uk-and-mexico>

<sup>633</sup> £250,000 boost for broadband in conference centres, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/250000-boost-for-broadband-in-conference-centres>

<sup>634</sup> £250,000 boost for broadband in conference centres, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/250000-boost-for-broadband-in-conference-centres>

<sup>635</sup> £600 million boost for housing, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/600-million-boost-for-housing>

<sup>636</sup> £600 million boost for housing, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/600-million-boost-for-housing>

<sup>637</sup> Cardiff's new transport research network receives £1m UK Government cash boost to turn vehicles green, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cardiffs-new-transport-research-network-receives-1m-uk-government-cash-boost-to-turn-vehicles-green>

<sup>638</sup> Cardiff's new transport research network receives £1m UK Government cash boost to turn vehicles green, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/cardiffs-new-transport-research-network-receives-1m-uk-government-cash-boost-to-turn-vehicles-green>

business training and improved access to business loans in order to promote economic growth on the continent.<sup>639</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed that an additional 50 towns will benefit from the Future High Streets Fund.<sup>640</sup> The funding will enable towns to invest in vital infrastructure and introduce new homes and workplaces in city centres, thereby enabling local growth.<sup>641</sup>

On 27 August 2019, Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan launched a UK-wide competition to support rural communities in harnessing new 5G technology.<sup>642</sup> The application of 5G in rural communities will help to support business growth and encourage innovation.<sup>643</sup>

On 28 August 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced a new Commission to increase infrastructure projects in developing countries.<sup>644</sup> He said a special focus will be given to mobilise private sector investment to create jobs and build sustainable economic growth.<sup>645</sup>

On 2 September 2019, during his first visit to Mozambique, Minister for Africa Andrew Stephenson stated the United Kingdom was committed to partner with Mozambique to increase jobs and opportunities for young people.<sup>646</sup> The United Kingdom will support Mozambique by providing skills training to young Mozambicans, thereby helping to meet the needs of companies and contributing to economic growth.<sup>647</sup>

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<sup>639</sup> UK aid to break down barriers for female entrepreneurs in Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 25 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-break-down-barriers-for-female-entrepreneurs-in-africa>

<sup>640</sup> £1 billion Future High Streets Fund expanded to 50 more areas, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-future-high-streets-fund-expanded-to-50-more-areas>

<sup>641</sup> £1 billion Future High Streets Fund expanded to 50 more areas, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-future-high-streets-fund-expanded-to-50-more-areas>

<sup>642</sup> 30m to spark rollout of next generation 5G in rural Wales and help countryside capitalise on tech revolution, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30m-to-spark-rollout-of-next-generation-5g-in-rural-wales-and-help-countryside-capitalise-on-tech-revolution>

<sup>643</sup> 30m to spark rollout of next generation 5G in rural Wales and help countryside capitalise on tech revolution, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30m-to-spark-rollout-of-next-generation-5g-in-rural-wales-and-help-countryside-capitalise-on-tech-revolution>

<sup>644</sup> International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

<sup>645</sup> International Development Secretary to boost infrastructure in the poorest countries with UK aid, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 August 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-to-boost-infrastructure-in-the-poorest-countries-with-uk-aid>

<sup>646</sup> UK aid to empower young people and boost jobs in Mozambique, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-empower-young-people-and-boost-jobs-in-mozambique>

<sup>647</sup> UK aid to empower young people and boost jobs in Mozambique, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-to-empower-young-people-and-boost-jobs-in-mozambique>

On 5 September 2019, the Department for International Trade introduced an online tool that will support British business to report issues impeding their participation in global trade.<sup>648</sup> The tool will support the Government in tackling trade barriers that limit the competitiveness of British exports.<sup>649</sup>

On 10 September 2019, ministers announced investing more than GBP500,000,000 in green technologies, thereby aiming at tackling climate change and increasing sustainability while promoting economic growth.<sup>650</sup>

On 20 September 2019, the Coastal Communities Fund announced projects to support around 1,000 jobs and attract investment from public and private investment sources.<sup>651</sup> The projects aim at creating new jobs for coastal communities and hence contributing to evening out regional inequalities.<sup>652</sup>

On 20 September 2019, the government announced new investments into research and small businesses to encourage researchers and businesses to explore opportunities in science and innovation and industries.<sup>653</sup> The idea behind these investments is to harness cooperation between business and academia to build businesses of the future.<sup>654</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Johnson announced GBP515 million of funding to the United Nations in order to tackle impediments to education for girls across the world.<sup>655</sup> Boris Johnson stressed that by supporting the schooling and empowerment of girls and women, the Government hopes to contribute to inclusive economic growth in underdeveloped regions.<sup>656</sup>

On 1 October 2019, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced a series of measures to build a skilled workforce that is fit for the requirements of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to increase

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<sup>648</sup> New service to open overseas markets for UK businesses (London), 05 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-service-to-open-overseas-markets-for-uk-businesses>

<sup>649</sup> New service to open overseas markets for UK businesses (London), 05 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-service-to-open-overseas-markets-for-uk-businesses>

<sup>650</sup> Over £500m new investment in green technologies for a cleaner and healthier future, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 10 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-500m-new-investment-in-green-technologies-for-a-cleaner-and-healthier-future>

<sup>651</sup> Government announces over £10 million for 5 more coastal communities, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-over-10-million-for-5-more-coastal-communities>

<sup>652</sup> Government announces over £10 million for 5 more coastal communities, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-over-10-million-for-5-more-coastal-communities>

<sup>653</sup> Science superstars and small businesses could bring the next big innovations to market with £100 million boost, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/science-superstars-and-small-businesses-could-bring-the-next-big-innovations-to-market-with-100-million-boost>

<sup>654</sup> Science superstars and small businesses could bring the next big innovations to market with £100 million boost, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/science-superstars-and-small-businesses-could-bring-the-next-big-innovations-to-market-with-100-million-boost>

<sup>655</sup> PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

<sup>656</sup> PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 September 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

productivity.<sup>657</sup> The main focus of these measures will be investment and support in technical education, which is expected to lead to the establishment of an Institute of Technology in every region in England.<sup>658</sup>

On 2 October 2019, Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack announced a GBP25 million new Growth Deal for two regions in Scotland.<sup>659</sup> Based on support from the British Government, the initiative hopes to attract investment from local partners and to boost the local economy and deliver skilled jobs.<sup>660</sup> A similar deal was announced for Northern Ireland the same day, also designed to support economic growth, create jobs or invest in local projects.<sup>661</sup>

On 8 October 2019, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced the cooperation of the United Kingdom with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to research and produce crops that can withstand the impacts of climate change as well as pests and diseases.<sup>662</sup> The initiative contributes to tackling poverty and making agriculture more resilient.<sup>663</sup>

On 11 October 2019, Digital Secretary Nicky Morgan announced a new law to ensure broadband access for people living in blocks of flats.<sup>664</sup> He stressed that delivering digital infrastructure is crucial to promote the growth and productivity of the British economy.<sup>665</sup>

On 24 October 2019, the government announced to sponsor new PhDs and researchers to work on pressing issues in Artificial Intelligence and sustainable development solutions.<sup>666</sup> It hopes to attract and retain talent through this investment and to build a workforce that is fit for the future.<sup>667</sup>

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<sup>657</sup> New measures announced to help boost the nation's skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-announced-to-help-boost-the-nations-skills>

<sup>658</sup> New measures announced to help boost the nation's skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-announced-to-help-boost-the-nations-skills>

<sup>659</sup> Scottish Secretary announces £25 million for new Growth Deal, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-announces-25-million-for-new-growth-deal>

<sup>660</sup> Scottish Secretary announces £25 million for new Growth Deal, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scottish-secretary-announces-25-million-for-new-growth-deal>

<sup>661</sup> £163 million economic package for Northern Ireland, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/163-million-economic-package-for-northern-ireland>

<sup>662</sup> UK aid partners with Gates Foundation to tackle global food insecurity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 08 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-partners-with-gates-foundation-to-tackle-global-food-insecurity>

<sup>663</sup> UK aid partners with Gates Foundation to tackle global food insecurity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 08 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-partners-with-gates-foundation-to-tackle-global-food-insecurity>

<sup>664</sup> Millions set to benefit from faster broadband with new plans to tackle rogue landlords, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 10 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-set-to-benefit-from-faster-broadband-with-new-plans-to-tackle-rogue-landlords>

<sup>665</sup> Millions set to benefit from faster broadband with new plans to tackle rogue landlords, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 10 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/millions-set-to-benefit-from-faster-broadband-with-new-plans-to-tackle-rogue-landlords>

<sup>666</sup> Government backs next generation of scientists to transform healthcare and tackle climate change, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-next-generation-of-scientists-to-transform-healthcare-and-tackle-climate-change>

On 25 October 2019, the government introduced a deal with the mobile phone industry to enhance mobile coverage in rural areas.<sup>668</sup> The initiative attempts to tackle the digital divide between urban and rural areas, thereby supporting regional economic growth.<sup>669</sup>

On 1 November 2019, Housing Secretary Jon Robert Jenrick announced five additional Housing Infrastructure Fund projects, based on which the government will make investments in transportation infrastructure, schools and other utilities in order to ensure that local communities have the appropriate infrastructure to build housing.<sup>670</sup> The investments are expected to boost local economies.<sup>671</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the government announced a new grant scheme for rural businesses to boost productivity and create local jobs.<sup>672</sup>

On 2 November 2019, Works and Pensions Secretary Thérèse Coffey confirmed a series of changes to be introduced to the Disability Confident Scheme which promotes workplace inclusivity.<sup>673</sup> The changes includes new public reporting requirements for Disability Confident employers to promote effective compliance with the scheme.<sup>674</sup>

On 5 November 2019, Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst announced funding opportunities for businesses in the United Kingdom.<sup>675</sup> The funding is part of a broader initiative that aims to increase productivity in the United Kingdom by supporting especially small businesses in tackling management issues and in becoming more profitable and productive.<sup>676</sup>

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<sup>667</sup> Government backs next generation of scientists to transform healthcare and tackle climate change, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 October 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-next-generation-of-scientists-to-transform-healthcare-and-tackle-climate-change>

<sup>668</sup> £1 billion deal set to solve poor mobile coverage, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 25 October 2019.

Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-deal-set-to-solve-poor-mobile-coverage>

<sup>669</sup> £1 billion deal set to solve poor mobile coverage, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 25 October 2019.

Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-deal-set-to-solve-poor-mobile-coverage>

<sup>670</sup> Full steam ahead as infrastructure revolution advances, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/full-steam-ahead-as-infrastructure-revolution-advances>

<sup>671</sup> Full steam ahead as infrastructure revolution advances, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/full-steam-ahead-as-infrastructure-revolution-advances>

<sup>672</sup> Rural businesses to benefit from £35m government fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 November 2019. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rural-businesses-to-benefit-from-35m-government-fund>

<sup>673</sup> Disability Confident scheme leads to inclusive workforce, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disability-confident-scheme-leads-to-inclusive-workforce>

<sup>674</sup> Disability Confident scheme leads to inclusive workforce, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/disability-confident-scheme-leads-to-inclusive-workforce>

<sup>675</sup> £56 million to boost business productivity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 05 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/56-million-to-boost-business-productivity>

<sup>676</sup> £56 million to boost business productivity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 05 November 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/56-million-to-boost-business-productivity>

On 5 November 2019, Housing Minister Esther McVey launched a new expert advisory council dedicated to the digital transformation of the property sector.<sup>677</sup> The council is expected to support and grow the sector, thereby making it easier and cheaper to build and buy new homes.<sup>678</sup>

On 20 December 2019, Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick declared that spending for local governments will be substantially increased in 2020, thereby increasing the spending power of local authorities for social care.<sup>679</sup> The increase in funding will support local growth and promote the protection of marginalized and vulnerable parts of local communities.<sup>680</sup>

On 7 January 2020, the United Kingdom's export credit agency UK Export Finance guaranteed GBP47.6 million to support Solarcentury in building two of the largest solar plants in Spain, thereby promoting British exports and supporting green collar jobs in the United Kingdom.<sup>681</sup>

On 10 January 2020, the government announced GBP71 million new funding to turn the former site of the SSI Steelworks company into a business zone for tech companies, manufacturing and clean energy.<sup>682</sup> Doing so, the government attempts to create new jobs, thereby promoting economic growth and prosperity in the North of the country.<sup>683</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the government announced to provide GBP2 billion to Northern Ireland to increase infrastructure investment and transform public services.<sup>684</sup> The financial package attempts to spur reforms in health, education and justice.<sup>685</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the government announced measures to support and enhance regional connectivity across the United Kingdom.<sup>686</sup> The measures will ensure domestic transport connections, including connections to regional airports, for all communities.<sup>687</sup>

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<sup>677</sup> PropTech dragons form new expert property innovation council, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 05 November 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/proptech-dragons-form-new-expert-property-innovation-council>

<sup>678</sup> PropTech dragons form new expert property innovation council, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 05 November 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/proptech-dragons-form-new-expert-property-innovation-council>

<sup>679</sup> Biggest multi-billion pound spending increase for councils in decade, Government of the United Kingdom, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-multi-billion-pound-spending-increase-for-councils-in-a-decade>

<sup>680</sup> Biggest multi-billion pound spending increase for councils in decade, Government of the United Kingdom, 20 December 2019. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/biggest-multi-billion-pound-spending-increase-for-councils-in-a-decade>

<sup>681</sup> UK solar company secures funding to build two major solar plants in Spain, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 07 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-solar-company-secures-funding-to-build-two-major-solar-plants-in-spain>

<sup>682</sup> Teesside transformation backed by £71m government funding, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 10 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teesside-transformation-backed-by-71m-government-funding>

<sup>683</sup> Teesside transformation backed by £71m government funding, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 10 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/teesside-transformation-backed-by-71m-government-funding>

<sup>684</sup> UK Government commits to £2bn to support new Northern Ireland Executive, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-commits-2bn-to-support-new-northern-ireland-executive>

<sup>685</sup> UK Government commits to £2bn to support new Northern Ireland Executive, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-commits-2bn-to-support-new-northern-ireland-executive>



On 16 January 2020, International Development Secretary Alok Sharma announced new programmes to promote the access of African women entrepreneurs to global markets.<sup>688</sup>

On 20 January 2020, during the UK-Africa Investment Summit, Secretary of State for International Development Alok Sharma and the Minister of International Cooperation of Egypt Dr. Rania Al-Mashat agreed to enhance economic cooperation.<sup>689</sup> The cooperation is expected to contribute to sustainable economic growth in Egypt.<sup>690</sup> Besides Egypt, the United Kingdom is also partnering with Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and the African Development Bank to promote British private sector investments in environmentally-friendly infrastructure projects.<sup>691</sup> The UK government also announced the Growth Gateway, which is a service to help African, UK and other businesses to trade with and invest in each other.<sup>692</sup> The idea behind the Growth Gateway is to capitalise on opportunities for international growth in African markets.<sup>693</sup>

On 29 January 2020, Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick announced a new credit scheme to support small and medium sized building firms in entering the market.<sup>694</sup> The scheme is part of the Government's commitment to provide a million new homes by 2024.<sup>695</sup>

On 30 January 2020, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee announced to maintain Bank Rate at 0.75 per cent.<sup>696</sup> According to the committee, this is part of a monetary policy that aims

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<sup>686</sup> Government announces measures on regional connectivity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-measures-on-regional-connectivity>

<sup>687</sup> Government announces measures on regional connectivity, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 15 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-measures-on-regional-connectivity>

<sup>688</sup> UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

<sup>689</sup> UK — Egypt announce joint economic partnership, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-egypt-announce-joint-economic-partnership>

<sup>690</sup> UK — Egypt announce joint economic partnership, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-egypt-announce-joint-economic-partnership>

<sup>691</sup> International Development Secretary launches new venture to create rich pipeline of infrastructure projects across Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-launches-new-venture-to-create-rich-pipeline-of-infrastructure-projects-across-africa>

<sup>692</sup> Growth Gateway announced at UK-Africa Investment Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 January 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/growth-gateway-announced-at-uk-africa-investment-summit>

<sup>693</sup> Growth Gateway announced at UK-Africa Investment Summit, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 January 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/growth-gateway-announced-at-uk-africa-investment-summit>

<sup>694</sup> Housing Secretary confirms £1 billion of finance to support small and medium sized builders, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 29 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-secretary-confirms-1-billion-of-finance-to-support-small-and-medium-sized-builders>

<sup>695</sup> Housing Secretary confirms £1 billion of finance to support small and medium sized builders, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 29 January 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-secretary-confirms-1-billion-of-finance-to-support-small-and-medium-sized-builders>

<sup>696</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 0.75% — January 2020, Bank of England (London), 30 January 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/january-2020>

to ensure a sustainable return to the 2 per cent inflation target of the United Kingdom, thereby promoting economic stability.<sup>697</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the Social Mobility Commission launched a new guide to help employers attract and retain employees from socio-economically diverse backgrounds.<sup>698</sup> With this initiative, it hopes to facilitate the labour market access of underprivileged social groups.<sup>699</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Life Sciences Minister Nadhim Zahawi introduced a new GBP10 million scheme to support researchers and businesses across the UK in the development of medical technology, thereby strengthening the sector.<sup>700</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Digital Secretary Oliver Dowden announced GBP35 million of funding for nine projects across the country that tackle the spread of 5G technology.<sup>701</sup> Part of the funding will be used to create jobs in rural areas.<sup>702</sup>

On 21 February 2020, the UK Prosperity Fund launched its Future Cities Programme in three cities in South Africa.<sup>703</sup> The programme targets improvements in transport, urban resilience, and sustainable planning.<sup>704</sup>

On 24 February 2020, Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick confirmed a GBP49.2 billion package for local councils in England.<sup>705</sup> The funding includes increased budgets for social care, rewards for building new homes, support for rural areas as well as funds to enable economic growth.<sup>706</sup>

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<sup>697</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 0.75% — January 2020, Bank of England (London), 30 January 2020. Access Date: 08.02.2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/january-2020>

<sup>698</sup> Helping employers increase socio-economic diversity and inclusion, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 February 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/helping-employers-increase-socio-economic-diversity-and-inclusion>

<sup>699</sup> Helping employers increase socio-economic diversity and inclusion, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 February 2020. Access Date: 07.02.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/helping-employers-increase-socio-economic-diversity-and-inclusion>

<sup>700</sup> £10 million boost to improve patient care with new technologies, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-boost-to-improve-patient-care-with-new-technologies>

<sup>701</sup> New £65 million package for 5G trials, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-65-million-package-for-5g-trials>

<sup>702</sup> New £65 million package for 5G trials, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-65-million-package-for-5g-trials>

<sup>703</sup> Prosperity Fund's Future Cities Programme launches in South Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prosperity-funds-future-cities-programme-launches-in-south-africa>

<sup>704</sup> Prosperity Fund's Future Cities Programme launches in South Africa, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prosperity-funds-future-cities-programme-launches-in-south-africa>

<sup>705</sup> Government confirms multi-billion pound spending increase for councils, Government of the United Kingdom, 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-multi-billion-pound-spending-increase-for-councils>

<sup>706</sup> Government confirms multi-billion pound spending increase for councils, Government of the United Kingdom, 25 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-multi-billion-pound-spending-increase-for-councils>

On 28 February 2020, UK Rail Minister Chris Heaton-Harris confirmed a GBP20 million fund to improve rail connections across the United Kingdom.<sup>707</sup> The fund is part of the Government's GBP500 million package to reopen former routes and stations that had been closed in the 1960s and is hoped to improve infrastructure across the country and facilitate economic growth in less well-connected regions.<sup>708</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced a GBP46 million package to support research for a coronavirus vaccine as well as to develop a rapid test for the disease.<sup>709</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick announced a new GBP6.5 million English language programme to help local authorities to meet the English language needs of their communities.<sup>710</sup> Language classes are hoped to increase integration and social and economic mobility of peripheral communities.<sup>711</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Business Secretary Alok Sharma and UK Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced a GBP186.9 million investment into sciences.<sup>712</sup> The funding is partly dedicated to improving A level participation in the hard sciences, especially among girls and disadvantaged groups.<sup>713</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the government extended delivery hours for food retailers.<sup>714</sup> By increasing the frequency of their deliveries, the food industry is hoped to respond better to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>715</sup>

On 9 March 2020, Trade Commissioner for Africa Emma Wade-Smith met with businesses of different sizes across the UK to discuss future investment and support opportunities of British business in Africa.<sup>716</sup>

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<sup>707</sup> £20 million to connect communities across the country with new railway stations, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-to-connect-communities-across-the-country-with-new-railway-stations>

<sup>708</sup> £20 million to connect communities across the country with new railway stations, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 February 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/20-million-to-connect-communities-across-the-country-with-new-railway-stations>

<sup>709</sup> PM announces new funding in fight against spread of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-new-funding-in-fight-against-spread-of-coronavirus>

<sup>710</sup> Thousands to benefit from new English language classes, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-to-benefit-from-new-english-language-classes>

<sup>711</sup> Thousands to benefit from new English language classes, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-to-benefit-from-new-english-language-classes>

<sup>712</sup> Multi-million government investment in the future of UK science, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-government-investment-in-the-future-of-uk-science>

<sup>713</sup> Multi-million government investment in the future of UK science, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 06 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-government-investment-in-the-future-of-uk-science>

<sup>714</sup> New measures on night time deliveries to supermarkets to support coronavirus response, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-on-night-time-deliveries-to-supermarkets-to-support-coronavirus-response>

<sup>715</sup> New measures on night time deliveries to supermarkets to support coronavirus response, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-measures-on-night-time-deliveries-to-supermarkets-to-support-coronavirus-response>

On 9 March 2020, Scottish Ministers and leading UK mobile network companies signed a GBP1 billion deal to improve mobile network coverage in rural areas across Scotland.<sup>717</sup> The improved network coverage is hoped to spur economic growth in the respective areas.<sup>718</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the government announced GBP532 million of funding to the plug-in car grant scheme as part of its 2020 Budget.<sup>719</sup> The scheme is aimed at incentivising customers to switch to ultra-low emission vehicles.<sup>720</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the government announced a GBP150 million aid packet to support developing economies in recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>721</sup> Countries will receive support if they experience a severe decline in national income or falling government revenues as a result of the virus.<sup>722</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the Bank of England voted to decrease the base rate to 0.25 per cent from formerly 0.75 per cent.<sup>723</sup> The Bank of England also announced a new Term Funding Scheme to support small and medium enterprises and lowered the capital buffer rate for UK banks to 0 per cent from 1 per cent.<sup>724</sup> The measures are intended to counter the economic ramifications of COVID-19.<sup>725</sup>

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<sup>716</sup> Africa business opportunities encouraged by HMTc UK tour, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/africa-business-opportunities-encouraged-by-hmtc-uk-tour>

<sup>717</sup> £1 billion deal to end poor rural mobile coverage agreed, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-deal-to-end-poor-rural-mobile-coverage-agreed>

<sup>718</sup> £1 billion deal to end poor rural mobile coverage agreed, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 09 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-deal-to-end-poor-rural-mobile-coverage-agreed>

<sup>719</sup> Update on plug-in vehicle grants following today's budget, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plug-in-vehicle-grants-update-following-todays-budget>

<sup>720</sup> Update on plug-in vehicle grants following today's budget, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/plug-in-vehicle-grants-update-following-todays-budget>

<sup>721</sup> UK helps world's poorest countries withstand the economic disruption of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-helps-worlds-poorest-countries-withstand-the-economic-shock-of-coronavirus>

<sup>722</sup> UK helps world's poorest countries withstand the economic disruption of coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-helps-worlds-poorest-countries-withstand-the-economic-shock-of-coronavirus>

<sup>723</sup> HMRC late payment interest rates to be revised after Bank of England reduces rate, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 13 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hmrc-late-payment-interest-rates-to-be-revised-after-bank-of-england-reduces-rate>

<sup>724</sup> Bank of England measures to respond to the economic shock from Covid-19, Bank of England (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-measures-to-respond-to-the-economic-shock-from-covid-19>

<sup>725</sup> Bank of England measures to respond to the economic shock from Covid-19, Bank of England (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-measures-to-respond-to-the-economic-shock-from-covid-19>

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak set out a GBP12 billion action plan as part of the new government budget to respond to the economic impact of COVID-19.<sup>726</sup> The funding will be used to support public services, individuals and businesses that may be affected by the outbreak.<sup>727</sup>

On 12 March 2020, the UK Office for Low Emission Vehicles confirmed the continuation of three electric charging schemes for another year.<sup>728</sup> The grant scheme supports citizens in installing charging technology for electrical vehicles in their homes and workplaces.<sup>729</sup>

On 14 March 2020, during a phone call, Prime Minister Johnson and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison agreed to work closely, including through the G20, in order to prevent long-term economic damage from COVID-19.<sup>730</sup>

On 15 March 2020, during a phone call between Prime Minister Johnson and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, both leaders agreed to work closely, including through the G20, to limit economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>731</sup>

On 16 March 2020, Farming Minister Victoria Prentis awarded a total of GBP1 million to nine organisations that help farms and land managers prepare for agriculture after Brexit.<sup>732</sup> The organisations will use the money to help farmers fully understand, and adapt to, the changes they will be facing after December 2020.<sup>733</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Environment Agency launched the National Framework for Water Resources, which will bring together industry, regulators and government to promote and improve sustainable water usage.<sup>734</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Bank of England, together with the UK Treasury, launched a COVID Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF).<sup>735</sup> The CCFF will provide funding to businesses by purchasing

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<sup>726</sup> Chancellor delivers Budget 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-delivers-budget-2020>

<sup>727</sup> Chancellor delivers Budget 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-delivers-budget-2020>

<sup>728</sup> Update on the infrastructure grant schemes, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 12 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-the-infrastructure-grants-schemes>

<sup>729</sup> Update on the infrastructure grant schemes, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 12 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-the-infrastructure-grants-schemes>

<sup>730</sup> PM Call with Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison: 14 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-prime-minister-of-australia-scott-morrison-14-march-2020>

<sup>731</sup> PM call with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman: 15 March 2020, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 15 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-call-with-crown-prince-mohammed-bin-salman-15-march-2020>

<sup>732</sup> £1 million to support transition to future farming system, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-support-transition-to-future-farming-system>

<sup>733</sup> £1 million to support transition to future farming system, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-support-transition-to-future-farming-system>

<sup>734</sup> Preserving our water resources in a changing climate — industry and government tackle threat to future water supplies, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 16 March 2020. Access Date: 16.03.2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preserving-our-water-resources-in-a-changing-climate-industry-and-government-tackle-threat-to-future-water-supplies>

<sup>735</sup> HM Treasury and the Bank of England launch a Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF), Bank of England (London), 17 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility>

commercial paper of up to one-year maturity issued by firms that contribute to the UK economy.<sup>736</sup> By doing so, the CCFF will provide businesses across several sectors with liquidity to pay wages and suppliers even while experiencing disruptions in cashflows due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>737</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) announced a set of measures to support the stability of the global and domestic economy and financial markets.<sup>738</sup> The MPC voted to increase the Bank of England's holdings of UK government bond and sterling non-financial investment-grade corporate bonds by GBP200 billion to a total of GBP645 billion, financed by issuance of central bank reserves.<sup>739</sup> The MPC also voted to reduce the Bank Rate by 15 basis points to 0.1 per cent and to enlarge the Term Funding Scheme for small- and medium-size enterprises.<sup>740</sup> In addition, the Bank of England agreed on additional gilt purchases of a total value of GBP5.1 billion.<sup>741</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the Bank of England activated its Contingent Term Repo Facility (CTRF), which seeks to temporarily enhance its sterling liquidity insurance facilities.<sup>742</sup> The CTRF allows market participants to borrow central bank reserves in cash in exchange for collateral assets and hence provides market participants with predictable and reliable sources of liquidity, which in turn supports the functioning of the financial market.<sup>743</sup> The step attempts to alleviate frictions that occurred in the money markets due to the economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>744</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Environment Secretary George Eustice and UK Chief Secretary to the Treasury Steve Barclay announced a GBP10 million fisheries support scheme.<sup>745</sup> The scheme will support

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<sup>736</sup> HM Treasury and the Bank of England launch a Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF), Bank of England (London), 17 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility>

<sup>737</sup> HM Treasury and the Bank of England launch a Covid Corporate Financing Facility (CCFF), Bank of England (London), 17 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility>

<sup>738</sup> Asset Purchase Facility (APF): Asset Purchases and TFSME – Market Notice 19 March 2020. Bank of England (London), 19 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notices/2020/apf-asset-purchases-and-tfsme-march-2020>

<sup>739</sup> Asset Purchase Facility (APF): Asset Purchases and TFSME – Market Notice 19 March 2020. Bank of England (London), 19 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notices/2020/apf-asset-purchases-and-tfsme-march-2020>

<sup>740</sup> Asset Purchase Facility (APF): Asset Purchases and TFSME – Market Notice 19 March 2020. Bank of England (London), 19 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notices/2020/apf-asset-purchases-and-tfsme-march-2020>

<sup>741</sup> Asset Purchase Facility (APF): Asset Purchases and TFSME – Market Notice 19 March 2020. Bank of England (London), 19 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/markets/market-notices/2020/apf-asset-purchases-and-tfsme-march-2020>

<sup>742</sup> Bank of England launches Contingent Term Repo Facility, Bank of England (London), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-launches-contingent-term-repo-facility>

<sup>743</sup> Bank of England launches Contingent Term Repo Facility, Bank of England (London), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-launches-contingent-term-repo-facility>

<sup>744</sup> Bank of England launches Contingent Term Repo Facility, Bank of England (London), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/boe-launches-contingent-term-repo-facility>

<sup>745</sup> Financial support for England's fishing businesses unveiled, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-financial-support-for-englands-fishing-businesses>

fishing businesses hit by the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic through the crisis, thereby maintaining jobs and supporting local communities.<sup>746</sup>

On 20 April 2020, Chancellor Sunak announced a GBP1.25 billion coronavirus package to protect UK firms driving innovation from economic damage during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>747</sup> The package includes GBP500 million for investments in high-growth companies, shared between the government and the private sector, as well as GBP750 million of grants and loans for small- and medium-size enterprises focusing on research and development.<sup>748</sup>

On 28 April 2020, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson introduced a new online learning platform that offers free digital and numeracy courses.<sup>749</sup> The platform aims at building the skills of UK workers and improving their future job prospects.<sup>750</sup>

On 1 May 2020, High Streets Minister Simon Clarke confirmed GBP6.1 million of funding for Business Improvement Districts across England.<sup>751</sup> The funding will be channelled into projects that help their local economies cope with the economic ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>752</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the UK Treasury launched a Bounce Back Loans scheme, through which small businesses will be able to apply for quick and easy-to access loans.<sup>753</sup> The loans will be granted with a flat interest rate of 2.5 per cent and are expected to ensure the survival of small businesses after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>754</sup>

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<sup>746</sup> Financial support for England's fishing businesses unveiled, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-financial-support-for-englands-fishing-businesses>

<sup>747</sup> Billion pound support package for innovative firms hit by coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-support-package-for-innovative-firms-hit-by-coronavirus>

<sup>748</sup> Billion pound support package for innovative firms hit by coronavirus, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 20 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-support-package-for-innovative-firms-hit-by-coronavirus>

<sup>749</sup> New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>

<sup>750</sup> New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 28 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>

<sup>751</sup> £6.1 million funding boost to help high streets and town centres through pandemic, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/6-1-million-funding-boost-to-help-high-streets-and-town-centres-through-pandemic>

<sup>752</sup> £6.1 million funding boost to help high streets and town centres through pandemic, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/6-1-million-funding-boost-to-help-high-streets-and-town-centres-through-pandemic>

<sup>753</sup> New Bounce Back Loans to launch today, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 04 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>

<sup>754</sup> New Bounce Back Loans to launch today, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 04 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bounce-back-loans-to-launch-today>

On 21 May 2020, the government allocated GBP20 million to a jointly funded venture capital scheme aimed at supporting green start-up companies across the UK.<sup>755</sup> The scheme supports the development of clean, low-carbon technologies.<sup>756</sup>

On 24 May 2020, Minister Clarke announced a GBP50 million fund for councils to support their local high streets in reopening businesses after the COVID-19 lockdown.<sup>757</sup> By supporting high streets and local businesses, the scheme attempts to strengthen local economies.<sup>758</sup>

On 1 June 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs together with the Environment Agency announced a new investment approach that intends to involve the private sector in environmental projects.<sup>759</sup> In a pilot scheme, four projects will receive funding to encourage sustainable private sector investment in environmental projects.<sup>760</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the government's High Streets Task Force launched a number of tools to support businesses get back on their feet after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>761</sup> The tools include training and advice for high streets across England.<sup>762</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the government awarded GBP10 million for a liquid-air battery project based in Manchester.<sup>763</sup> The electricity storage facility will help better harness green energy generated by renewables.<sup>764</sup>

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<sup>755</sup> Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups>

<sup>756</sup> Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups>

<sup>757</sup> £50 million boost to support the recovery of our high streets, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-million-boost-to-support-the-recovery-of-our-high-streets>

<sup>758</sup> £50 million boost to support the recovery of our high streets, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 24 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/50-million-boost-to-support-the-recovery-of-our-high-streets>

<sup>759</sup> Green projects given support to attract private sector investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-projects-given-support-to-attract-private-sector-investment>

<sup>760</sup> Green projects given support to attract private sector investment, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 01 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/green-projects-given-support-to-attract-private-sector-investment>

<sup>761</sup> New support for reopening and recovery of high streets, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 12 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-support-for-reopening-and-recovery-of-high-streets>

<sup>762</sup> New support for reopening and recovery of high streets, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 12 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-support-for-reopening-and-recovery-of-high-streets>

<sup>763</sup> Greater Manchester to house world's largest liquid air battery, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 18 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-manchester-to-house-to-worlds-largest-liquid-air-battery>

<sup>764</sup> Greater Manchester to house world's largest liquid air battery, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 18 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/greater-manchester-to-house-to-worlds-largest-liquid-air-battery>



On 18 June 2020, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) voted for the Bank of England to increase the target stock of purchased UK government bonds, financed by the issuance of central bank reserves, by an additional GBP100 billion to a total stock of asset purchases of GBP745 billion.<sup>765</sup> With this policy, the MPC seeks to reach its inflation target of 2 per cent in the medium term, thereby contributing to economic stability.<sup>766</sup>

On 22 June 2020, the government launched the GBP80 million Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Driving the Electric Revolution Challenge.<sup>767</sup> Under this initiative, the government supports green technologies in power electronics, machines and drives across sectors, thereby promoting sustainable growth.<sup>768</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the government allocated GBP73.5 million to the UK automotive sector to invest in advanced technology to cut carbon emissions.<sup>769</sup> Besides promoting the development of green technologies, the investment is expected to safeguard jobs in the UK.<sup>770</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the government announced changes to the licensing law for pubs, restaurants and cafes that will make it easier for businesses to recover from the COVID-19.<sup>771</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced seven research and innovation in across the UK, totalling to GBP400 million.<sup>772</sup> The projects are expected to create jobs, new skills, and strengthen the competitiveness of the UK industrial sector.<sup>773</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the government allocated GBP44 million for research and development in South Wales.<sup>774</sup> In collaboration with two Welsh universities and six Welsh manufacturing companies, the funding will strengthen emerging industries in South Wales.<sup>775</sup>

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<sup>765</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 01% - June 2020, Bank of England (London), 18 June 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/june-2020>

<sup>766</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 01% - June 2020, Bank of England (London), 18 June 2020. Access Date: 6 July 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/june-2020>

<sup>767</sup> Driving the change towards Net Zero: apply for funding, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 22 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-the-change-to-greener-vehicles-apply-for-funding>

<sup>768</sup> Driving the change towards Net Zero: apply for funding, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 22 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/driving-the-change-to-greener-vehicles-apply-for-funding>

<sup>769</sup> £73.5 million to boost green economic recovery in automotive sector, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/735-million-to-boost-green-economic-recovery-in-automotive-sector>

<sup>770</sup> £73.5 million to boost green economic recovery in automotive sector, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/735-million-to-boost-green-economic-recovery-in-automotive-sector>

<sup>771</sup> Government outlines support for pubs, cafes and restaurants, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 25 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-outlines-support-for-pubs-cafes-and-restaurants>

<sup>772</sup> £400 million boost to regional R&D projects across the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-million-boost-to-regional-rd-projects-across-the-uk>

<sup>773</sup> £400 million boost to regional R&D projects across the UK, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/400-million-boost-to-regional-rd-projects-across-the-uk>

<sup>774</sup> £44 million boost to fuel major regional research and development projects in south Wales, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/44-million-boost-to-fuel-major-regional-research-and-development-projects-in-south-wales>

On 27 June 2020, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy launched a GBP200 million Sustainable Innovation Fund that provides funding to help companies recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>776</sup> A strong focus of the scheme is on sustainable and green business ideas.<sup>777</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Prime Minister Johnson set out a 10-year rebuilding programme for British schools.<sup>778</sup> A total of GBP1 billion will be used to improve education infrastructure in the worst-off communities, as well as to make school building greener.<sup>779</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced a GBP5 billion New Deal to support the economic recovery after COVID-19.<sup>780</sup> The funding will be used, inter alia, to invest in infrastructure and local growth projects.<sup>781</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Chancellor Sunak announced changes to the eligibility criteria of the UK government's Future Fund that allow more start-ups and innovative firms to benefit from funding.<sup>782</sup> Through supporting start-ups and innovative firms, the government hopes to create new jobs and support the economic recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>783</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the government announced a GBP500 million support package for councils.<sup>784</sup> The scheme will reimburse councils for lost income and allow council and business rates tax deficits to be repaid over three years instead of one, thereby supporting businesses and communities as well.<sup>785</sup>

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<sup>775</sup> £44 million boost to fuel major regional research and development projects in south Wales, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/44-million-boost-to-fuel-major-regional-research-and-development-projects-in-south-wales>

<sup>776</sup> Government unveils £200 million package to help innovative businesses bounce back, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-200-million-package-to-help-innovative-businesses-bounce-back>

<sup>777</sup> Government unveils £200 million package to help innovative businesses bounce back, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-unveils-200-million-package-to-help-innovative-businesses-bounce-back>

<sup>778</sup> PM announces transformative school rebuilding programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 29 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-transformative-school-rebuilding-programme>

<sup>779</sup> PM announces transformative school rebuilding programme, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 29 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-transformative-school-rebuilding-programme>

<sup>780</sup> 'Build build build': Prime Minister announces New Deal for Britain, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 30 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/build-build-build-prime-minister-announces-new-deal-for-britain>

<sup>781</sup> 'Build build build': Prime Minister announces New Deal for Britain, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 30 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/build-build-build-prime-minister-announces-new-deal-for-britain>

<sup>782</sup> More firms can now benefit from the Future Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 30 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-firms-can-now-benefit-from-the-future-fund>

<sup>783</sup> More firms can now benefit from the Future Fund, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 30 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/more-firms-can-now-benefit-from-the-future-fund>

<sup>784</sup> Comprehensive new funding package for councils to help address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income during the pandemic, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 July 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/comprehensive-new-funding-package-for-councils-to-help-address-coronavirus-pressure-and-cover-lost-income-during-the-pandemic>

On 2 July 2020, the Space Agency announced funding opportunities of up to GBP75,000 for space technology projects from business, the non-profit sector and academia.<sup>786</sup> By issuing the grant, the UK Space Agency attempts to support the UK space sector in recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>787</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the government announced a GBP10 million package to support small businesses in communities that depend on tourism. The package is part of the broader New Deal strategy of the UK government that intends to support jobs and the economic recovery after COVID-19 with GBP5 billion.<sup>788</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the Department for International Trade launched its Tech for Growth program.<sup>789</sup> The scheme is aimed at enhancing the role of technology in access to financial services as well as at supporting trade between the UK and emerging economies.<sup>790</sup> In its first year, the initiative will focus on access to financial services for underserved communities in Africa as well as UK-African trade in fintech.<sup>791</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the Bank of England announced a scheme funded by the government that promotes the sharing of expertise on forecasting, managing, and mitigating the economic and financial consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic with central bank staff in developing countries.<sup>792</sup> Doing so, the scheme aims to promote financial stability despite the economic and financial shock of the pandemic.<sup>793</sup>

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<sup>785</sup> Comprehensive new funding package for councils to help address coronavirus pressures and cover lost income during the pandemic, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 July 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/comprehensive-new-funding-package-for-councils-to-help-address-coronavirus-pressures-and-cover-lost-income-during-the-pandemic>

<sup>786</sup> Up to £75,000 available for UK space technology projects, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 July 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/up-to-75000-available-for-uk-space-technology-projects>

<sup>787</sup> Up to £75,000 available for UK space technology projects, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 02 July 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/up-to-75000-available-for-uk-space-technology-projects>

<sup>788</sup> Government announces £10 million for small businesses to kickstart tourism, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 03 July 2020. Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-10-million-for-small-businesses-to-kickstart-tourism>

<sup>789</sup> 'Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

<sup>790</sup> 'Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

<sup>791</sup> 'Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

<sup>792</sup> UK aid and Bank of England help developing countries to manage coronavirus economic shock, Bank of England (London), 31 July 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/july/uk-aid-and-boe-help-developing-countries-to-manage-coronavirus-economic-shock>

<sup>793</sup> UK aid and Bank of England help developing countries to manage coronavirus economic shock, Bank of England (London), 31 July 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/july/uk-aid-and-boe-help-developing-countries-to-manage-coronavirus-economic-shock>

On 4 August 2020, the MPC voted unanimously to maintain the bank rate at 0.1 per cent as well as to continue with its bond purchase programmes.<sup>794</sup> Both programs are intended to promote financial stability during the economic crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>795</sup>

On 7 August 2020, the government and the Bank of Thailand signed a memorandum of understanding aimed at improving strategic cooperation in financial services.<sup>796</sup> The goal of this partnership is to support Thailand's inclusive economic recovery and green growth in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).<sup>797</sup> Areas of cooperation include, among others, corporate governance and transparency, the development of financial technology, sustainable finance, and support for the overall resilience of the financial system.<sup>798</sup>

On 17 August 2020, the government launched a GBP3 million Innovation Challenge Fund to promote science-based solutions from academia and industry from India to tackle global challenges.<sup>799</sup> The money will be awarded in up to 12 grants to Indian-based proposals, thereby contributing to the creation of high-skilled jobs and economic growth.<sup>800</sup>

On 20 August 2020, the Bank of England announced to reduce the frequency of seven-day US dollar repo operations from three times to one per week starting from 1 September.<sup>801</sup> The initiative was decided in consultation with other central banks and serves as an important liquidity backstop to ease strains in global funding markets.<sup>802</sup>

On 20 August 2020, the government announced a GBP32 million investment for a new UK Productivity Institute in Manchester.<sup>803</sup> The fund will be used for research into productivity and economic recovery across the UK.<sup>804</sup>

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<sup>794</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 0.1% - August 2020, Bank of England (London), 06 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/august-2020>

<sup>795</sup> Bank Rate maintained at 0.1% - August 2020, Bank of England (London), 06 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/monetary-policy-summary-and-minutes/2020/august-2020>

<sup>796</sup> The UK and the Bank of Thailand sign MoU on Financial Services, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 14 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-and-the-bank-of-thailand-sign-mou-on-financial-services>

<sup>797</sup> The UK and the Bank of Thailand sign MoU on Financial Services, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 14 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-and-the-bank-of-thailand-sign-mou-on-financial-services>

<sup>798</sup> The UK and the Bank of Thailand sign MoU on Financial Services, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 14 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-uk-and-the-bank-of-thailand-sign-mou-on-financial-services>

<sup>799</sup> UK launches £3 million Innovation Challenge Fund in India, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-3-million-innovation-challenge-fund-in-india>

<sup>800</sup> UK launches £3 million Innovation Challenge Fund in India, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 17 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-3-million-innovation-challenge-fund-in-india>

<sup>801</sup> US dollar liquidity-providing operations from 1 September 2020, Bank of England (London), 20 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/august/us-dollar-liquidity-providing-operations-from-september1-2020>

<sup>802</sup> US dollar liquidity-providing operations from 1 September 2020, Bank of England (London), 20 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/august/us-dollar-liquidity-providing-operations-from-september1-2020>

<sup>803</sup> New productivity institute part of £37m investment to boost UK wage growth and living standards, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-productivity-institute-part-of-37m-investment-to-boost-uk-wage-growth-and-living-standards>

Overall, the United Kingdom has taken active steps to promote sustainable and inclusive growth through investments at the national and international level. The Bank of England is committed to stability, thereby aiming to safeguard downside risks. The United Kingdom has therefore complied with all elements of the commitment.

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

*Analyst: Katharina Kubn*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 1 July 2019, the Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) proposed possible additional duties for a list of 89 importing goods from the European Union, as announced a countermeasure responding to EU subsidies on aircraft products. The list of products being announced as goods possibly undergone additional tariffs worth USD4 billion.<sup>805</sup>

On 9 July 2019, the federal bank regulatory agencies released regulatory capital rules that would simplify capital treatment for mortgage servicing assets, certain deferred tax assets, investments from capital instruments of unconsolidated financial institutions, minority interest, and would clarify and reduce regulatory burden. This action aims at banking organizations that do not use the “advanced approaches” capital framework.<sup>806</sup>

On 22 July 2019, the federal bank regulatory agencies and the Department of Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network released a joint statement announcing efforts to increase transparency in regards to risk-focused approach to Bank Secrecy Act/anti-money laundering supervision. The effort would allow agencies to do better evaluation and procedure plans regarding different risk profile of each bank.<sup>807</sup>

On 23 July 2019, the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) made public of eight large financial firms’ resolution plans, required according to the Dodd-Frank Act, by July, 2019. The “eight big domestic firms” include Bank of America, Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Morgan Stanley, State Street Corporation, and Wells Fargo. The aim is to release the public part of the resolution plans, and even though confidential part remains secretive, it is asked to summarize the outline into elements of published resolution plans to maintain transparency. The relevant agencies were set to review both the public and the confidential part of the resolution plan.<sup>808</sup>

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<sup>804</sup> New productivity institute part of £37m investment to boost UK wage growth and living standards, Government of the United Kingdom (London), 21 August 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-productivity-institute-part-of-37m-investment-to-boost-uk-wage-growth-and-living-standards>

<sup>805</sup> USTR Proposes Additional Products for Tariff Countermeasures in Response to Harm Caused by EU Aircraft Subsidies. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/july/ustr-proposes-additional-products-releases-regulation>

<sup>806</sup> Agencies simplify regulatory capital rules. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20190709a.htm>

<sup>807</sup> Federal bank regulatory agencies and FinCEN improve transparency of risk-focused BSA/AML supervision. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20190722a.htm>

<sup>808</sup> Agencies release public sections of resolution plans for eight large banks. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20190723a.htm>

On 31 July 2019, the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee (FOMC) announced about its updated monetary policy that the target range of federal funds rate is being decreased to 2 to 2-1/4 per cent. The committee believed that this action would affect the US economy to obtain better employment situation, price stability, expansion of economic activity, and strong labour market conditions.<sup>809</sup>

On 23 August 2019, President Donald J. Trump ordered the USTR to increase 5 per cent of the tariffs on USD550 billion worth of imports from China. In addition, USTR announced that it would begin the procedure of increasing the tariff from 25 per cent to 30 per cent for another USD250 billion worth of imports from China. A previously scheduled increase to 15 per cent tariff on USD300 billion worth of Chinese imports also came into effect.<sup>810</sup>

On 23 August 2019, President Trump signed the Small Business Reorganization Act of 2019 including simplifying process for reorganization of small business, adding subchapters under Chapter 11 of Bankruptcy Code, aiming at easing pressure faced by small business owners and debtors in regards to their economic situations.<sup>811</sup>

On 5 September 2019, the Department of Treasury published its plan to reform the housing financial system. The plan includes 50 administrative and legislative changes aiming at establishing a better platform for taxpayers in regards to home purchasing issues, protecting taxpayers against possible bailouts, and promoting competitions within the house finance industry.<sup>812</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the Federal Reserve Board and its FOMC decided that the target range for federal funds rate is being lowered to 1-3/4 to 2 per cent, in a joint meeting session. The new monetary policy came into effect on 19 September 2019. The Federal Reserve expressed that its board still remain optimistic in the ongoing economic conditions, but the situations of labour market had been tightened, resulting in difficulties of finding workers.<sup>813</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the Federal Reserve, the FDIC and the Office of Comptroller of the Currency completed the ultimate rule to increase the threshold barrier for residential real estate transactions demanding an appraisal estimated from USD250,000 to USD400,000. This was the first change of appraisal demanded since 1994, resulted by appreciation in residential real estate transactions after the last changing. This action aims at lifting the barrier of real estate transactions to prevent them from posting a threat to financial system.<sup>814</sup>

On 28 October 2019, the Federal Reserve Board and the FDIC announced that they decided to maintain the existing policies regarding large firms' resolution plans of bankruptcy in place, but

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<sup>809</sup> Agencies release public sections of resolution plans for eight large banks. Access date: 5 February 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20190723a.htm>

<sup>810</sup> USTR Statement on Section 301 Tariff Action Regarding China. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2019/august/ustr-statement-section-301-tariff>

<sup>811</sup> Bill Announcement. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/bill-announcement-50/>

<sup>812</sup> Treasury Department Submits Housing Reform Plan to President. Access date: 5 February 2020.

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/featured-stories/treasury-department-submits-housing-reform-plan-to-president>

<sup>813</sup> Minutes of the Board's discount rate meetings on August 26 and September 18, 2019. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/monetary20191015a1.pdf>

<sup>814</sup> Agencies issue final rule to exempt residential real estate transactions of \$400,000 or less from appraisal requirements. Access date: 5 February 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20190927a.htm>

modify or decrease the requirements for small businesses, which do not pose as effective threat to financial system, regarding their resolution plans of bankruptcy.<sup>815</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the FOMC announced about its updated monetary policy that the target range of federal funds rate is being decreased to 1-1/2 to 1-3/4 per cent, including information regarding its voting procedures. The committee believed that this action would affect the US economy to obtain better employment situation, price stability, expansion of economic activity, and strong labour market conditions.<sup>816</sup>

On 10 January 2020, President Trump announced to impose new sanctions with respect to the additional sectors of Iranian economy. Sanctions aim at all foreign financial institutions and personnel having connections with and transactions of any important goods or services related to any portion of Iranian economy, except for agricultural goods, food, and medical devices to and from Iran.<sup>817</sup>

On 15 January 2020, President Trump signed Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of China with China. After a series of negotiations and exchanges between both sides, the agreement includes rebalancing the trade situation and relationship with China.<sup>818</sup>

On 5 February 2020, Treasury Under Secretary for International Affairs Brent McIntosh and Monetary Authority of Singapore Deputy Managing Director Jacqueline Loh met in Singapore to discuss about the cooperation situation in finance industry and trade between the United States and Singapore. In the joint statement made by representatives from both sides, “the United States and Singapore support allowing financial service suppliers to transfer data across borders and oppose generally applicable data localization requirements as long as financial regulators have access to data needed for regulatory and supervisory purposes.”<sup>819</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the FOMC announced about its updated monetary policy that the target range of federal funds rate is being decreased to 1 to 1-1/4 per cent, including information regarding its voting procedures. The Committee believed that this action is based on the current outlook of US economy.<sup>820</sup>

On 3 March 2020, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell initiated a call with the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors to discuss the protection of economy from the disease COVID-19. Participants of the call, the G7 finance ministers and central bank governors then made a joint statement to “reaffirm [their] commitment to use all appropriate policy tools to achieve strong, sustainable growth and safeguard against downside risks. Alongside

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<sup>815</sup> Agencies finalize changes to resolution plan requirements; keeps requirements for largest firms and reduces requirements for smaller firms. Access date: 5 February 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20191028b.htm>

<sup>816</sup> Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement. Access date: 5 February 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20191030a.htm>

<sup>817</sup> Issuance of Executive Order of January 10, 2020, "Imposing Sanctions With Respect to Additional Sectors of Iran".

Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Documents/13902.pdf>

<sup>818</sup> President Donald J. Trump is Signing a Landmark Phase One Trade Agreement with China. Access date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-signing-landmark-phase-one-trade-agreement-china/>

<sup>819</sup> United States — Singapore Joint Statement on Financial Services Data Connectivity. Access date: 13 March 2020.

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm899>

<sup>820</sup> Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement. Access date: 3 March 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200303a.htm>

strengthening efforts to expand health services, G7 finance ministers are ready to take actions, including fiscal measures where appropriate, to aid in the response to the virus and support the economy during this phase.”<sup>821</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Department of Commerce’s Bureau of Industry and Security announced to extend the license granted for Huawei and its US-affiliates to be on the entity list. The action aims at giving more time space for US suppliers to seek alternative source of equipment, according to Department of Commerce.<sup>822</sup>

On 15 March 2020, the FOMC announced about its updated monetary policy that the target range of federal funds rate is being decreased to 0 to 1/4 per cent, including information regarding its voting procedures. The committee also decided to “increase its holdings of Treasury securities by at least USD500 billion and its holdings of agency mortgage-backed securities by at least USD200 billion.” The committee believed that this action would help US economy out of rough conditions being faced under the threats of COVID-19, including the fact that unemployment rate remains high, and the systematic threat to the financial market and public health system. The decisions aim at fostering highest level of employment and price stability.<sup>823</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Federal Reserve Board decided to approve actions by all local federal reserve banks to lower the discount rate (primary credit rate) from 1-3/4 per cent to 1/4 per cent, effective immediately.<sup>824</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Federal Reserve, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, and the Swiss National Bank issued coordinated action to further protect liquidity through protecting US dollar liquidity. These central banks agreed to improve the frequency of seven-day maturity operations from weekly to daily.<sup>825</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Federal Reserve expanded its program to support the flow of credit and to take steps to improve liquidity, state and municipal money markets via the Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility.<sup>826</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Department of the Treasury offered USD30 billion in helping financing equipment via Exchange Stabilization Fund.<sup>827</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Federal Reserve announced policies to extensively support the US economy. The FOMC will purchase treasury securities and agency mortgage-backed securities to support

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<sup>821</sup> Statement of G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors. Access date: 13 March 2020.

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm927>

<sup>822</sup> Department of Commerce Asks for Public Input on Huawei Temporary General License Extensions. Access date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/press-releases/2020/03/department-commerce-asks-public-input-huawei-temporary-general-license>

<sup>823</sup> Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement. Access date: 15 March 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200315a.htm>

<sup>824</sup> Federal Reserve Board approves actions by the Boards of Directors of the Federal Reserve Banks of Kansas City, Boston, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Richmond, Atlanta, Chicago, St. Louis, Dallas, and San Francisco. Access date: 16 March 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200316a.htm>

<sup>825</sup> Coordinated central bank action to further enhance the provision of U.S. dollar liquidity. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200320a.htm>

<sup>826</sup> Federal Reserve Board expands its program of support for flow of credit to the economy by taking steps to enhance liquidity and functioning of crucial state and municipal money markets. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200320b.htm>

<sup>827</sup> Federal Reserve announces extensive new measures to support the economy. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200323b.htm>



market functioning. The Federal Reserve will offer at most USD30 million in financing consumers and businesses, build Primary, Secondary Market Corporate Facility for offering new bonds and keeping the market liquid, establish Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility to maintain the flow of credit for consumers and businesses. This integrated measure is to enable the Federal Reserve to use technical tools to purchase securities in the market and so to protect the financial market and the US economy more effectively.<sup>828</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued that financial institutions are allowed early adaption of new methodology on how financial institutions are required to measure counterparty credit risk derivatives, and providing new optional extension of regulated capital transition. This is to help improve and maintain the market liquidity.<sup>829</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the Federal Reserve crated a temporary repurchase agreement facility for foreign and international monetary authorities to help support the functioning and continuity of financial markets. This is aiming to support US households and businesses.<sup>830</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Federal Reserve Board announced temporary modifications to supplementary leverage ratios. The rule would exclude US Treasury bonds and deposits at Federal Reserve from the calculation of the rule of holding companies. The supplementary leverage ratio rule is validated towards banking organizations with more than USD250 billion in total consolidated assets.<sup>831</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve, the FDIC and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued two final judgements that the community bank leverage ratio would be 8 per cent in second quarter and the rest of the calendar year 2020, 8.5 per cent for calendar year 2021, and 9 per cent beyond. This will allow community banks to focus their support on lending to creditworthy families and businesses.<sup>832</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Federal Reserve announced that it would create an equipment to lend to small businesses via the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program, supported by loans.<sup>833</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Federal Reserve issued to offer at most USD2.3 trillion extra loans to prop up the economy. The loans would help families and businesses, and governments to keep societal services.<sup>834</sup>

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<sup>828</sup> Federal Reserve announces extensive new measures to support the economy. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200323b.htm>

<sup>829</sup> Agencies announce two actions to support lending to households and businesses. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200327a.htm>

<sup>830</sup> Federal Reserve announces establishment of a temporary FIMA Repo Facility to help support the smooth functioning of financial markets. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200331a.htm>

<sup>831</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces temporary change to its supplementary leverage ratio rule to ease strains in the Treasury market resulting from the coronavirus and increase banking organizations' ability to provide credit to households and businesses. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200401a.htm>

<sup>832</sup> Agencies announce changes to the community bank leverage ratio. Access Date: 15 April 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200406a.htm>

<sup>833</sup> Federal Reserve will establish a facility to facilitate lending to small businesses via the Small Business Administration's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) by providing term financing backed by PPP loans. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200406a.htm>

On 14 April 2020, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau announced the interim final judgement to temporarily defer real estate-related appraisals and evaluations under the agencies' rules.<sup>835</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, FDIC and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency updated an interim final judgement on the modification of the agencies' liquidity coverage ratio. The aim is to support financial institutions' participation on paycheck protection liquidity facility.<sup>836</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the FDIC and the Federal Reserve Board decided extensions for upcoming resolution plan deadlines. Two agencies extended submission date by 90 days, for resolution plans of Barclays, Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, and UBS, and for targeted resolution plans from some large overseas and domestic banks.<sup>837</sup>

On 3 June 2020, the Federal Reserve Board announced an expansion on the amount and sort of organizations eligible to use its municipal liquidity facility. The expansion enables all US states to use the facility for at least two cities or counties.<sup>838</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the Federal Reserve Board expanded the Main Street Lending Program to get more small and medium-sized businesses able to access support. The Board lowered the level of minimum loan payment, improved the level of maximum loan limit, and extended the term of loan to five years, offering larger flexibility to borrowers.<sup>839</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the FOMC announced about its updated monetary policy that the target range of federal funds rate is being decreased to 0 to 1/4 per cent, including information regarding its voting procedures. The Committee believed that this action is based on the current outlook of US economy.<sup>840</sup>

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<sup>834</sup> Federal Reserve takes additional actions to provide up to \$2.3 trillion in loans to support the economy. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200409a.htm>

<sup>835</sup> Federal banking agencies to defer appraisals and evaluations for real estate transactions affected by COVID-19. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200414a.htm>

<sup>836</sup> Federal bank regulatory agencies modify liquidity coverage ratio for banks participating in Money Market Mutual Fund Liquidity Facility and Paycheck Protection Program Liquidity Facility. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200505a.htm>

<sup>837</sup> Agencies extend two resolution plan deadlines. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200506a.htm>

<sup>838</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces an expansion in the number and type of entities eligible to directly use its Municipal Liquidity Facility. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200603a.htm>

<sup>839</sup> Federal Reserve Board expands its Main Street Lending Program to allow more small and medium-sized businesses to be able to receive support. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200608a.htm>

<sup>840</sup> Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200610a.htm>

On 15 June 2020, the Federal Reserve Board announced updates on the Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility, purchasing a diversified and broad portfolio of corporate bonds to strengthen the market liquidity and the availability of large credit for businesses.<sup>841</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the Federal Reserve published the FraudClassifier model to help understand the details of potentially fraudulent activities conducted within the payment procedure or check the credibility of the payment itself.<sup>842</sup>

On 23 June 2020, four federal and state regulatory agencies, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the FDIC, the National Credit Union Administration, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the State Financial Regulators, published examiner guidance to improve consistency and flexibility of the supervision and examination of financial organizations affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The instructions require to consider long-term nature and impact when examining supervision of financial organizations.<sup>843</sup>

On 25 June 2020, five agencies, including the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Farm Credit Administration, the FDIC, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, completed the guideline to carry out implementation of risk management strategies at banks and other organizations with impactful swap activities. The final rules project detailed procedure that banking organizations would no longer be required to obtain a certain amount of initial margin.<sup>844</sup>

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Reserve Board decided to offer larger access to credit for non-profit organizations, including hospitals, schools and social services.<sup>845</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Federal Reserve allowed a broadened set of corporations to have access to the emergency lending facilities under extreme circumstances.<sup>846</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the Federal Reserve decided to obtain significant dollar liquidity backstops. The policy allowed nine central banks taking action on 19 March 2020, to improve liquidity by exchange

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<sup>841</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces updates to Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility (SMCCF), which will begin buying a broad and diversified portfolio of corporate bonds to support market liquidity and the availability of credit for large employers. Access Date: 10 July 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200615a.htm>

<sup>842</sup> Federal Reserve announces FraudClassifier Model to help organizations classify fraud involving payments. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/other20200618a.htm>

<sup>843</sup> Federal and state regulatory agencies issue examiner guidance for assessing safety and soundness considering the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on financial institutions. Access Date: 10 July 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200623a.htm>

<sup>844</sup> Agencies finalize amendments to swap margin rule. Access Date: 16 July 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/bcreg20200625b.htm>

<sup>845</sup> Federal Reserve Board modifies Main Street Lending Program to provide greater access to credit for nonprofit organizations such as educational institutions, hospitals, and social service organizations. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200717a.htm>

<sup>846</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces expansion of counterparties in the Term Asset-Backed Securities Loan Facility, Secondary Market Corporate Credit Facility, and Commercial Paper Funding Facility. Access Date: 2 September 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200723a.htm>

activities with the US market. The policy aimed at retaining the stable level of US dollar liquidity within the US market after assessing the liquidity situation affected by COVID-19.<sup>847</sup>

On 27 August 2020, the FOMC announced the modification towards its Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy. The revised updates, including the rewording of adjusted inflation policies and interest rate policies, aimed at providing a more transparent, accountable and more effective monetary policy.<sup>848</sup>

The US has taken actions that do not promote inclusive growth. Its actions safeguarding against the downside risk also only reach to a limited level, considering the effect of its trade policies implemented acts as a negative factor, despite its implemented regulations to secure the financial system, and policies to stimulate market economy.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Zeng Lecheng*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote inclusive growth and to safeguard against downside risk.

On 6 July 2019, the EU amended its economic agreement with the Kyrgyz Republic.<sup>849</sup> The 1999 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement was amended to improve Kyrgyzstan's economic sector, by promoting safer business environments, adding protections on intellectual property rights, and adopting several European standards (sanitary and phytosanitary standards, competition and transparency, capital movement, etc.).<sup>850</sup> Kyrgyzstan accepted further trade provisions, going beyond World Trade Organization requests. It agreed to ban export duties for several products and to reduce technical barriers to trade, which will promote investments from Europe.<sup>851</sup>

On 19 November 2019, the EU held its second meeting with Ghana under the Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>852</sup> Ghana will open its market to products from the EU, beginning by the first quarter of 2020.<sup>853</sup>

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<sup>847</sup> Federal Reserve Board announces the extensions of its temporary U.S. dollar liquidity swap lines and the temporary repurchase agreement facility for foreign and international monetary authorities (FIMA repo facility) through March 31, 2021. Access Date: 2 September 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200729b.htm>

<sup>848</sup> Federal Open Market Committee announces approval of updates to its Statement on Longer-Run Goals and Monetary Policy Strategy. Access Date: 2 September 2020.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/monetary20200827a.htm>

<sup>849</sup> EU and Kyrgyz Republic initial Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Bishkek) 6 July 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2046&title=EU-and-Kyrgyz-Republic-initial-Enhanced-Partnership-and-Cooperation-Agreement>

<sup>850</sup> EU and Kyrgyz Republic initial Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Bishkek) 6 July 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2046&title=EU-and-Kyrgyz-Republic-initial-Enhanced-Partnership-and-Cooperation-Agreement>

<sup>851</sup> EU and Kyrgyz Republic initial Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, European Commission (Bishkek) 6 July 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2046&title=EU-and-Kyrgyz-Republic-initial-Enhanced-Partnership-and-Cooperation-Agreement>

<sup>852</sup> EU-Ghana endorse market access offer and schedule under Economic Partnership Agreement (Brussels) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2087&title=EU-Ghana-endorse-market-access-offer-and-schedule-under-Economic-Partnership-Agreement>

On 19 December 2019, the Council of the EU announced a proposal supporting the export of agricultural produce from Moldova.<sup>854</sup> The EU agreed to expand trade of produce under the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area.<sup>855</sup> The EU agreed to the increase of duty-free tariff quotas in regards to grapes by 50 per cent, plums by 50 per cent, and cherries by 1,500 tonnes.<sup>856</sup> The EU will also benefit from duty-free access to Moldova's market.<sup>857</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the EU concluded its first round of negotiations with Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Zimbabwe to expand the Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>858</sup> All countries agreed to work towards improving and developing rules of origination, customs, technical barriers to trade, and sanitary and phytosanitary standards.<sup>859</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the EU adjusted steel safeguard measures and consulted members of the World Trade Organization on the amendments.<sup>860</sup> The EU updated the list of product exclusions from developing countries and improved quota functioning for certain products, such as hot-rolled flat steel and automobile-related steel.<sup>861</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the EU initiated a trade dispute with Colombia through the World Trade Organization.<sup>862</sup> Colombia introduced anti-dumping duties which contradict World Trade Organization law.<sup>863</sup> The anti-dumping policies affect 3 per cent to 8 per cent of European imports and affects 85 per cent of the EU frozen fry market (the market is worth over EUR19 million annually).<sup>864</sup>

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<sup>853</sup> EU-Ghana endorse market access offer and schedule under Economic Partnership Agreement (Brussels) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2087&title=EU-Ghana-endorse-market-access-offer-and-schedule-under-Economic-Partnership-Agreement>

<sup>854</sup> EU opens door to further duty-free imports from Republic of Moldova (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2098&title=EU-opens-door-to-further-duty-free-imports-from-Republic-of-Moldova>

<sup>855</sup> EU opens door to further duty-free imports from Republic of Moldova (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2098&title=EU-opens-door-to-further-duty-free-imports-from-Republic-of-Moldova>

<sup>856</sup> EU opens door to further duty-free imports from Republic of Moldova (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2098&title=EU-opens-door-to-further-duty-free-imports-from-Republic-of-Moldova>

<sup>857</sup> EU opens door to further duty-free imports from Republic of Moldova (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2098&title=EU-opens-door-to-further-duty-free-imports-from-Republic-of-Moldova>

<sup>858</sup> EU and five Eastern and Southern African countries kick off negotiations to deepen trade relations (Brussels) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2102&title=EU-and-five-Eastern-and-Southern-African-countries-kick-off-negotiations-to-deepen-trade-relations>

<sup>859</sup> EU and five Eastern and Southern African countries kick off negotiations to deepen trade relations (Brussels) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2102&title=EU-and-five-Eastern-and-Southern-African-countries-kick-off-negotiations-to-deepen-trade-relations>

<sup>860</sup> Commission decides to adjust the existing safeguards for steel (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2066>

<sup>861</sup> Commission decides to adjust the existing safeguards for steel (Brussels) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2066>

<sup>862</sup> European Union launches WTO trade dispute against Colombia's unfair duties on frozen fries (Brussels) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2083>

<sup>863</sup> European Union launches WTO trade dispute against Colombia's unfair duties on frozen fries (Brussels) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2083>

<sup>864</sup> European Union launches WTO trade dispute against Colombia's unfair duties on frozen fries (Brussels) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 1 Feb 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2083>

On 12 February 2020, the European Commission approved the EU-Vietnam trade agreement which will go into force in 2020 following Vietnam's ratification of the agreement.<sup>865</sup> The agreement will remove tariffs on almost all goods and both parties will work towards sustainable development by respecting labour rights, environmental protections, and commitments within the Paris Agreement on climate change.<sup>866</sup> The two parties will also ratify the eight fundamental conventions of the International Labour Organization.<sup>867</sup>

On 24 January 2020, the EU along with 16 members of the World Trade Organization agreed to implement a multi-party interim appeal arrangement.<sup>868</sup> The arrangement is a two-step trade dispute settlement measure which will prevent blockage and paralysis of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Appellate Body to facilitate international trade.<sup>869</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the EU requested a WTO panel with India on those its trade restrictions on European exporters.<sup>870</sup> India placed tariffs, going as high as 20 per cent, on various information and communications technology from EU exporters, including cell phones and telephone handsets, which violates India's agreements with the WTO's duty-free clauses.<sup>871</sup> Colombia has been committing anti-dumping duties which have been affecting 3-8 per cent of the frozen fry market in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands.<sup>872</sup>

On 28 April 2020, the EU concluded its last round of negotiations to produce an updated trade agreement to replace the EU-Mexico Global Agreement, which was created in 2000.<sup>873</sup> The new

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<sup>865</sup> Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2114&title=Commission-welcomes-European-Parliaments-approval-of-EU-Vietnam-trade-and-investment-agreements>

<sup>866</sup> Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2114&title=Commission-welcomes-European-Parliaments-approval-of-EU-Vietnam-trade-and-investment-agreements>

<sup>867</sup> Commission welcomes European Parliament's approval of EU-Vietnam trade and investment agreements (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2114&title=Commission-welcomes-European-Parliaments-approval-of-EU-Vietnam-trade-and-investment-agreements>

<sup>868</sup> EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement (Brussels) 24

January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2106&title=EU-and-16-WTO-members-agree-to-work-together-on-an-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement>

<sup>869</sup> EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement (Brussels) 24

January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2106&title=EU-and-16-WTO-members-agree-to-work-together-on-an-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement>

<sup>870</sup> Trade enforcement: EU requests WTO panels with India and Colombia on ICT products and frozen fries (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2116&title=Trade-enforcement-EU-requests-WTO-panels-with-India-and-Colombia-on-ICT-products-and-frozen-fries>

<sup>871</sup> Trade enforcement: EU requests WTO panels with India and Colombia on ICT products and frozen fries (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2116&title=Trade-enforcement-EU-requests-WTO-panels-with-India-and-Colombia-on-ICT-products-and-frozen-fries>

<sup>872</sup> Trade enforcement: EU requests WTO panels with India and Colombia on ICT products and frozen fries (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2116&title=Trade-enforcement-EU-requests-WTO-panels-with-India-and-Colombia-on-ICT-products-and-frozen-fries>

<sup>873</sup> EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2142&title=EU-and-Mexico-conclude-negotiations-for-new-trade-agreement>

agreement is a “commitment to a more transparent and inclusive trade and investment policy.”<sup>874</sup> It stipulates nearly all trade between EU and Mexico as duty-free and will simplify customs procedures. In addition, the EU has committed to investment protection for Mexico.<sup>875</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the EU produced an implementing regulation on imposing definitive safeguard measures against imports of steel products.<sup>876</sup> In order to protect steel imports from the effects of COVID-19, the EU has established country-specific quotas in quarters rather than yearly allocations in order to prevent short-term import surges.<sup>877</sup> However, the EU will allow residual quotas for smaller exporters and has omitted developing countries from these regulations to ensure equity in global trade.<sup>878</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the EU published the Sustainability Impact Assessment for the Trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement.<sup>879</sup> This report examines the sustainability of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, a bilateral agreement between the EU and the South American trading bloc, which was agreed upon on 28 June 2020.<sup>880</sup> The Association Agreement will increase trade and investment between the two regions, remove trade barriers, promote sustainable development, and will implement new trade and investment rules to encourage fair economic practices.<sup>881</sup>

On 24 August 2020, the EU accepted proposals to increase trade within the Pan-Euro-Mediterranean region.<sup>882</sup> The proposals plan to improve existing bilateral preferential trade agreements by relaxing rules of origin laws with the following nations in the region: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway,

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<sup>874</sup> EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2142&title=EU-and-Mexico-conclude-negotiations-for-new-trade-agreement>

<sup>875</sup> EU and Mexico conclude negotiations for new trade agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2142&title=EU-and-Mexico-conclude-negotiations-for-new-trade-agreement>

<sup>876</sup> Commission maintains safeguards in place to defend European steel industry in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2161&title=Commission-maintains-safeguards-in-place-to-defend-European-steel-industry-in-times-of-crisis>

<sup>877</sup> Commission maintains safeguards in place to defend European steel industry in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2161&title=Commission-maintains-safeguards-in-place-to-defend-European-steel-industry-in-times-of-crisis>

<sup>878</sup> Commission maintains safeguards in place to defend European steel industry in times of crisis, European Commission (Brussels) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2161&title=Commission-maintains-safeguards-in-place-to-defend-European-steel-industry-in-times-of-crisis>

<sup>879</sup> European Commission publishes draft Sustainability Impact Assessment for the Trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2164&title=European-Commission-publishes-draft-Sustainability-Impact-Assessment-for-the-Trade-part-of-the-EU-Mercosur-Association-Agreement>

<sup>880</sup> European Commission publishes draft Sustainability Impact Assessment for the Trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2164&title=European-Commission-publishes-draft-Sustainability-Impact-Assessment-for-the-Trade-part-of-the-EU-Mercosur-Association-Agreement>

<sup>881</sup> EU-MERCOSUR, European Commission (Brussels) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-mercrosur-association-agreement/>

<sup>882</sup> Rules of origin: EU to enhance preferential trade with Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) countries, European Commission (Brussels) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1515](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1515)

Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo.<sup>883</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the EU produced the report “Integrating migrants and refugees into the labour market: Commission and social and economic partners relaunch cooperation.”<sup>884</sup> The report falls under the European Partnership on Integration with the objective of furthering labour migration.<sup>885</sup> The EU states that such integration will benefit both refugees and the European economy.<sup>886</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the European Commission adopted a comprehensive Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans.<sup>887</sup> This plan “ais to spur the long-term economic recovery of the region, support a green and digital transition, foster regional integration and convergence with the European Union” through a EUR9 billion investment for “sustainable connectivity, human capital, competitiveness and inclusive growth, and the twin green and digital transition.”<sup>888</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the European Commission announced three programs worth EUR60 million to boost Ukraine’s resilience and address the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>889</sup> The programs, EU4ResilientRegions, Civil Society Facility, and Climate package for a sustainable economy, will build resilience against destabilizing factors, strengthen civil society organizations and support an approach to restructuring Ukraine’s key economic sectors towards a low carbon economy.<sup>890</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the European Commission announced it will issue EU SURE bonds of up to EUR100 billion as social bonds.<sup>891</sup> This will give investors a chance to contribute, then the fund raised “will be transferred o the beneficiary Member States in the form of loans to help them cover

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<sup>883</sup> Rules of origin: EU to enhance preferential trade with Pan-Euro-Mediterranean (PEM) countries, European Commission (Brussels) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1515](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1515)

<sup>884</sup> Integrating migrants and refugees into the labour market: Commission and social and economic partners relaunch cooperation, European Commission (Brussels) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1561](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1561)

<sup>885</sup> Integrating migrants and refugees into the labour market: Commission and social and economic partners relaunch cooperation, European Commission (Brussels) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1561](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1561)

<sup>886</sup> Integrating migrants and refugees into the labour market: Commission and social and economic partners relaunch cooperation, European Commission (Brussels) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 8 Sept 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1561](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1561)

<sup>887</sup> Western Balkans: An Economic and Investment Plan to support the economic recovery and convergence, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1811](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1811)

<sup>888</sup> Western Balkans: An Economic and Investment Plan to support the economic recovery and convergence, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1811](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1811)

<sup>889</sup> EU-Ukraine Summit: EU provides €60 million to strengthen Ukraine's socio-economic resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1802](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1802)

<sup>890</sup> EU-Ukraine Summit: EU provides €60 million to strengthen Ukraine's socio-economic resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1802](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1802)

<sup>891</sup> European Commission to issue EU SURE bonds of up to €100 billion as social bonds, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1808](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1808)



the costs directly related to the financing of national short-time work schemes and similar measures as a response to the pandemic.”<sup>892</sup>

The EU has taken action to promote trade with non-European Union members by increasing trade liberalization. The EU has also protected its own markets against countries’ policies which threaten the stability of their industries.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Mathuja Jeyakumar*

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<sup>892</sup> European Commission to issue EU SURE bonds of up to €100 billion as social bonds, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.  
[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1808](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1808)

## 2. Macroeconomics: Exchange Rates

“We also reaffirm the exchange rate commitments made by our Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in March 2018.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China	-1		
France			Not applicable
Germany			Not applicable
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			Not applicable
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.82 (91%)	

### Background

The issue of exchange rate 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.”<sup>893</sup> At the 2010 Toronto Summit, the 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.”<sup>894</sup> At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders agreed to the Seoul Action Plan, which provided for a move towards more market-determined exchange rates.<sup>895</sup> At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders considered exchange

<sup>893</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communiqué0925.html>

<sup>894</sup> G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communiqué.html>

<sup>895</sup> G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

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.<sup>896</sup> 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 (RMB), continue to reform its exchange rate regime, and to increase the transparency of its exchange rate policy.”<sup>897</sup> At St. Petersburg, the commitment was renewed in virtually the same form.<sup>898</sup> The previous G20 exchange rate commitments were reiterated at Antalya,<sup>899</sup> Hangzhou,<sup>900</sup> Hamburg<sup>901</sup> and Buenos Aires.<sup>902</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

This commitment refers to the communiqué of the G20 finance ministers’ and central bank governors’ meeting held on 19-20 March 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The communiqué stated that “flexible exchange rates, where feasible, can serve as a shock absorber. We recognise that excessive volatility or disorderly movements in exchange rates can have adverse implications for economic and financial stability. We will refrain from competitive devaluations, and will not target our exchange rates for competitive purposes.”<sup>903</sup>

Thus, the commitment requires G20 members to allow the value of their currencies to be flexible in order to serve as a shock absorber. 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.<sup>904</sup>

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. Competitive devaluation, often referred to as a 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. Thus, competitive devaluation can be considered as an action aimed against the market-determined exchange rate goal. G20 members should achieve market-determined flexible exchange rates by refraining from interference with the price of their currencies, including competitive devaluation attempts.

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<sup>896</sup> Cannes Final Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 November 2011. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>897</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>898</sup> G20 Toronto Summit Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2010. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/to-communique.html>

<sup>899</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>900</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>901</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>902</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>903</sup> Communiqué, Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (Buenos Aires), Centre for International Institutions Research (Moscow) 20 March 2018. Access Date: 4 April 2020. [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/communique\\_g20\\_finance\\_2018.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/communique_g20_finance_2018.pdf)

<sup>904</sup> Floating Exchange Rate, Cory Mitchell, Investopedia, 9 April 2020. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/f/floatingexchangerate.asp>

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not move toward a more flexible and market-determined exchange rate.
0	G20 member moves toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, but fails to refrain from competitive devaluation of its currency.
+1	G20 member moves toward a more market-determined exchange rate and exchange rate flexibility, including by refraining from competitive devaluation of its currency.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

#### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

On 1 September 2019, Argentina imposed currency controls in an attempt to stabilise markets as the country faces a deepening financial crisis. The government restricted foreign currency purchases following a sharp drop in the value of the peso. Firms will have to seek central bank permission to sell pesos to buy foreign currency and to make transfers abroad.<sup>905</sup>

On 27 January 2020, Argentina's central bank released policy guidelines aimed at increasing the monetary supply and avoiding major exchange rate fluctuations. The bank said in a statement that it supported a managed exchange rate float to avoid sharp fluctuations in the value of the currency. The monetary policy should promote a "prudent expansion" of the monetary supply, the bank said.<sup>906</sup>

Argentina has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

According to the Reserve Bank of Australia Annual Report 2019, the last time the bank intervened in foreign exchange markets was in 2008.<sup>907</sup>

Australia refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### Brazil: +1

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

<sup>905</sup> Argentina imposes currency controls to support economy, BBC (London) 2 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-49547189>

<sup>906</sup> More money, managed float: Argentina central bank draws policy guidelines, Reuters (Buenos Aires) 28 January 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-argentina-cenbank/more-money-managed-float-argentina-central-bank-draws-policy-guidelines-idUSKBN1ZQ2JC>

<sup>907</sup> Operations in Financial Markets, Reserve Bank of Australia (Canberra) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 17 May 2020 <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/annual-reports/rba/2019/pdf/operations-in-financial-markets.pdf>.

The Brazilian economy operates with a floating exchange rate regime and, consistent with the inflation-targeting regime, the Central Bank of Brazil does not intervene in the foreign exchange market to determine the exchange rate level. Nonetheless, the bank pursues the permanent and functionality of the foreign exchange market, and may intervene to reduce excessive volatility by offering foreign exchange hedge or liquidity to market agents by means of several instruments.<sup>908</sup>

Brazil refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

According to the information on the Bank of Canada official website the last time the bank intervened in foreign exchange markets to affect movements in the Canadian dollar was in September 1998. Canada's current policy is to intervene in foreign exchange markets on a discretionary, rather than a systematic, basis and only in the most exceptional of circumstances.<sup>909</sup>

Canada refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **China: -1**

China has not complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

China maintains strict control of the renminbi's rate on the mainland. Every morning, the People's Bank of China sets a so-called daily midpoint fix, based on the previous day closing level and quotations taken from inter-bank dealers. The currency is allowed to trade within a narrow band of 2 per cent above or below the day's midpoint rate.<sup>910</sup>

No evidence of China taking steps towards more flexible exchange rates was found within the monitoring period.<sup>911</sup>

Thus, China receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>908</sup> Foreign exchange policy, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia). Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/en/financialstability/fxpolicy>

<sup>909</sup> Foreign Exchange Intervention, Bank of Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/rates/exchange/foreign-exchange-intervention/>.

<sup>910</sup> The yuan hit an 11-year low this week. Here's a look at how China controls its currency, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 28 August 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/08/28/china-economy-how-pboc-controls-the-yuan-rmb-amid-trade-war.html>

<sup>911</sup> The People's Bank of China's website as well as open sources were searched.

**France: Not applicable**

France is a member of the European Monetary Union. All the decisions concerning monetary policy and exchange rates are made by the European Central Bank. Thus, France is not assessed on the implementation of this commitment.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Germany: Not applicable**

Germany is a member of the European Monetary Union. All the decisions concerning monetary policy and exchange rates are made by the European Central Bank. Thus, Germany is not assessed on the implementation of this commitment.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

**India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

The exchange rate of the rupee along with other major currencies such as US dollar, euro, and yen are published by the Reserve Bank of India on a monthly and daily basis. The spot exchange rate specifies how much the rupee is equivalent to a unit of the specified currency. The rupee followed a pegged exchange rate system until 1991, after which it shifted to a floating exchange rate system.<sup>912</sup>

India has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and has a free-floating exchange rate for its national currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

Bank Indonesia decided in 2005 to adopt the inflation targeting framework, in which inflation is the primary monetary policy objective, while adhering to the free floating exchange rate system. Exchange rate stability plays a crucial role in achieving price and financial system stability. For this reason, Bank Indonesia also operates an exchange rate policy designed to minimise excessive rate volatility, rather than to peg the exchange rate to a particular level.<sup>913</sup>

Indonesia refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and has a free-floating exchange rate for its national currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>912</sup> Reserve Bank of India (Delhi). Access date: 19 May 2020.  
<https://www.rbi.org.in/SCRIPTs/PublicationsView.aspx?id=17985>

<sup>913</sup> Monetary Policy Objectives, Bank of Indonesia (Jakarta). Access date: 18 May 2020.  
<https://www.bi.go.id/en/moneter/tujuan-kebijakan/Contents/Default.aspx>

**Italy: Not applicable**

Italy is a member of the European Monetary Union. All the decisions concerning monetary policy and exchange rates are made by European Central Bank. Thus, Italy is not assessed on the implementation of this commitment.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

**Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

Japan introduced a floating exchange rate system in February 1973. Since then the Japanese economy has experienced large fluctuations in foreign exchange rates; to mitigate the negative influence of such fluctuations on the Japanese economy, Japan's authorities conduct foreign exchange market interventions as needed. Under Article 7, Section 3 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act of Japan, "the Minister of Finance shall endeavor to stabilize the exchange rate of Japanese currency by taking necessary measures such as the buying and selling of foreign means of payment." The Bank of Japan, as the agent of the Minister of Finance, executes foreign exchange interventions in accordance with the directions of the Minister of Finance by using the Foreign Exchange Fund Special Account. When foreign exchange rate developments are regarded as too volatile and the Minister of Finance decides to conduct an intervention, the Ministry of Finance Forex Division informs the Bank of Japan Forex Division of such decision, and officially announces the total amount of interventions.<sup>914</sup>

Generally, Japan does not apply foreign exchange interventions.

Japan has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

**Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

In December 1997, the daily fluctuation limits for the interbank exchange rate were abolished and, thus, Korea's exchange rate system was shifted to a free-floating system.<sup>915</sup>

Korea refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and has a free-floating exchange rate for its national currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

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<sup>914</sup> Outline of the Bank of Japan's Foreign Exchange Intervention Operations, Bank of Japan. Access date: 23 March 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/intl\\_finance/outline/expkainyu.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/intl_finance/outline/expkainyu.htm/)

<sup>915</sup> Exchange Rate System, Bank of Korea (Seoul). Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.bok.or.kr/eng/main/contents.do?menuNo=400186>

The peso's exchange rate system is described as floating, but the Bank of Mexico has a policy of active intervention in the foreign exchange market.<sup>916</sup>

On 10 March 2019, the Bank of Mexico stepped into the foreign exchange market to prop up the peso after the currency plummeted to an all-time low on the back of collapsing global oil prices and fears over the economic impact of coronavirus. The bank said the country's currency commission increased the size of its program of foreign exchange auctions to USD30 billion from USD20 billion to "maintain an orderly operation of the exchange market."<sup>917</sup>

Mexico has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency and has a free-floating exchange rate for its national currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the exchange rate commitment.

According to the Bank of Russia, Russia is using a floating exchange rate regime, which implies that the exchange rate of the ruble is not fixed and that there are no pre-established targets for the exchange rate or the pace of its movements. The dynamics of the exchange rate of the ruble are determined by the ratio of the demand for and supply of foreign currency in the foreign exchange market. In normal conditions, the Bank of Russia does not conduct any foreign exchange interventions to influence the exchange rate of the ruble.<sup>918</sup>

Russia has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on maintaining flexibility of the national currency.

On 4 April 2020, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) affirmed its commitment to its exchange rate policy of pegging the Saudi riyal to the US dollar as a strategic choice that supported economic growth in Saudi Arabia for over three decades. Furthermore, SAMA remained committed to maintaining the exchange rate at the official rate of 3.75 riyals to the dollar as an anchor of monetary and financial stability.<sup>919</sup>

Saudi Arabia has not targeted its exchange rate for competitive purposes, however no evidence of Saudi Arabia taking steps toward more flexible exchange rates was found within the monitoring period.

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<sup>916</sup> Mexican Peso, IBanFisrt. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://ibanfirst.com/currency-reference-centre/mxn/>

<sup>917</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-peso/mexico-central-bank-props-up-battered-peso-rates-outlook-uncertain-idUSKBN20W32Q>

<sup>918</sup> Exchange rate regime of the Bank of Russia, Bank of Russia 20 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [www.cbr.ru/eng/dkp/exchange\\_rate](http://www.cbr.ru/eng/dkp/exchange_rate).

<sup>919</sup> SAMA Affirms Commitment to Exchange Rate Policy, Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Riyadh) 4 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-us/news/pages/news-557.aspx>



Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

**South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the exchange rate commitment.

South Africa has a floating exchange rate which is described as “supervised.” The South African Reserve Bank, therefore, reserves the right to intervene on the spot market to influence the value of the rand, mainly against the US dollar.<sup>920</sup>

South Africa has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

**Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with the exchange rate commitment.

On 5 December 2020, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) published the Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy for 2020 where stated the following:

- The CBRT will continue to implement a floating exchange rate regime;
- Exchange rates are not used as a policy tool under the current regime;
- The supply and demand for foreign exchange are mainly determined by economic fundamentals, the monetary and fiscal policies implemented, international developments and expectations;

The CBRT has no nominal or real exchange rate target. Nevertheless, if the exchange rates deviate significantly from economic fundamentals and exchange rate movements permanently affect price stability or pose risk to financial stability, the CBRT will not remain indifferent to these developments and respond with the instruments at its disposal.<sup>921</sup>

Turkey has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

**United Kingdom: +1**

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the exchange rate commitment.

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<sup>920</sup> South African Rand, iBanFirst. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://ibanfirst.com/currency-reference-centre/zar/>

<sup>921</sup> Monetary and Exchange Rate Policy for 2020, Central Bank of Turkey (Ankara) 5 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/0a520b12-e5de-4948-956a-1a1c4b45b2d0/MonetaryandExchangeRatePolicyfor2020.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>

The Bank of England does not set the exchange rate.<sup>922</sup>

The UK has a market-determined flexible exchange rate, and no facts of competitive devaluation of its currency during the compliance period have been found.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

**United States: +1**

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

No information on the Federal Reserve System's market interventions targeting the exchange rate of the US dollar has been registered during the monitoring period.

The United States has refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

**European Union: +1**

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on exchange rate flexibility.

Euro has a free-floating exchange rate and no information on the European Central Bank interventions targeting the exchange rate of euro has been registered during the monitoring period.

The European Union refrained from competitive devaluation of its currency.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>922</sup> Who sets exchange rates?, Bank of England. Access Date: 3 April 2020.  
<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/knowledgebank/who-sets-exchange-rates>.

### 3. Trade: Open Markets

“[We strive to] ... keep our markets open.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration*

#### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China		0	
France			Not applicable
Germany			Not applicable
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			Not applicable
Japan	-1		
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		-0.12 (44%)	

#### Background

Maintaining free trade and open market access has been a feature of G20 summits since the Washington Summit in 2008. Before the 2017 Hamburg Summit it primarily took the form of an anti-protectionism pledge. This pledge was part of the response by the G20 to the 2008 financial crisis and was extended three times: at the 2009 London Summit, at the 2010 Toronto Summit and at the Los Cabos Summit until the end of 2014. At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, it was again extended until the end of 2016. At the 2015 and 2016 G20 summits in Antalya and Hangzhou, the G20 reaffirmed the commitment to a standstill and rollback on protectionist measures.

More recently, however, with increasingly differing opinions on trade policies' contribution to domestic and international economic growth and employment, G20 leaders have been less precise on the issues of international trade, despite affirmations of support for a “free, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent, predictable and stable trade and investment environment.”<sup>923</sup>

Nevertheless, the upsurge in protectionism remains a primary threat to market access around the world. The World Trade Organization (WTO) estimated that by mid-October 2019 trade restrictions imposed

<sup>923</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 29 June 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

by the G20 economies had reached their historic peaks, with a 37% increase, compared to the previous period (mid-October 2018 to mid-May 2019) and a trade coverage of over USD460 billion.<sup>924</sup>

The traditionally applied indicator for trade openness, measured as the sum of a country's total exports and total imports divided by its gross domestic product (GDP), is criticized by the WTO on the grounds that it correlates with some of economies' innate characteristics and thus cannot be utilized for cross-country comparisons.<sup>925</sup> Additionally such measurement cannot be applied to the monitoring of the G20 performance during the summit cycles, due to the lags in trade and GDP data availability. As such, given the history of the institution's activity on trade and the corresponding leaders' pledges the compliance assessment is based on the traditional G20 commitment to avoid protectionist measures.

### Commitment Features

This commitment requires that G20 members maintain a non-restrictive trade environment and ensure free access to their domestic markets. The Osaka Summit leaders' declaration calls for G20 members not to impose new protectionist measures and roll back those restrictions, which were imposed previously.

According to the WTO definition, protectionist measures include "tariffs, non-tariff measures, subsidies, and burdensome administrative procedures regarding imports."<sup>926</sup> Subsidies in particular cause competition-distorting effects.

To fully comply with the commitment the G20 members need to avoid imposing new protectionist measures and eliminate the ones in force.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member implemented one or more protectionist measures AND did not roll back any existing measures.
0	The G20 member did not implement new protectionist measures BUT existing measures were not rolled back OR the G20 member did implement new protectionist measures BUT at least one existing measure was rolled back.
+1	The G20 member did not implement any new protectionist measures AND rolled back at least one existing measure

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to keep its market open.

On 24 July 2019, the Ministry of Treasury of Argentina adopted Resolution 417/2019 simplifying the procedure to obtain export licenses for liquefied natural gas. As a consequence, licenses will be issued in 15 working days instead of 45 working days.<sup>927</sup>

<sup>924</sup> Trade restrictions among G20 economies remain at historic highs, World Trade Organization, 21 November 2019. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/trdev\\_21nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/trdev_21nov19_e.htm)

<sup>925</sup> A Practical Guide to Trade Policy Analysis, World Trade Organization 2012. Access date: 20 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/publications\\_e/wto\\_unctad12\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wto_unctad12_e.pdf).

<sup>926</sup> G20 governments refrain from extensive use of restrictive measures, but some slippage evident, Pascal Lamy, World Trade Organization, 14 September 2018. [http://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news09\\_e/trdev\\_14sep09\\_e.htm](http://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news09_e/trdev_14sep09_e.htm).

<sup>927</sup> Argentina simplifica los procesos para exportar gas natural, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 26 July 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-simplifica-los-procesos-para-exportar-gas-natural>.

On 9 August 2019, the Executive of Argentina issued Decree 555/2019 eliminating the import duties set on 38 eight-digit tariff lines related to used oilfield equipment. According to the import download facility of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the previous applicable duties ranged between 3.5% and 18.5%.<sup>928</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Secretariat of Industry of Argentina adopted Resolution 235/2019 updating the list of products recognized as part of the Promotion Scheme for the Argentine Naval Industry and that are subject to a 0% import duty. The new list adds 10 new products to the list enclosed in 7 eight-digits tariff lines (one of the products has been inserted in the list with a temporary character and is to be removed on 15/11/2020).<sup>929</sup>

On 14 December 2019, the Argentine Executive adopted Decree 37/2019 amending the export tax regime introduced via Decree 793/2018. One of the changes introduced with the new legislation is the decrease of the export tax applicable on 595 eight-digits tariff lines. The new duties have been reduced from 30 per cent and 12 per cent depending on the product to 9 per cent. The new export duties have entered into force on 14 December 2019 and apply until 31 December 2020.<sup>930</sup>

On 27 December 2019, the Argentine Executive adopted the Decree 99/2019 on the reduction of the export tax applicable on services rendered in the country when such services shall be effectively used or exploited abroad. Concretely, the new legislation reduced the export tax from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The new export duty entered into force on 1 January 2020 and is to be terminated on 31 December 2021.<sup>931</sup>

On 27 December 2019, the Argentine Executive adopted new legislation regulating export duties, modifying the internal taxation of imports and establishing a temporary tax applicable to the acquisition of foreign currency as well as other goods and services made by Argentine residents using foreign currency.<sup>932</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the Argentine Ministry of Productive Development adopted Resolution 1/2020 amending the import license regime. The new legislation modified the list of products subject to non-automatic import licenses adding 607 new products enclosed in 304 eight-digits tariff lines. In addition, the tolerance margin assessed over the free-on-board value of the imported goods was reduced from 7 per cent to 5 per cent for the products subject to these types of licenses. Finally, it also reduced the validity of the licenses from 180 calendar days to a 90 calendar-day term. Resolution 1/2020 entered into force on 10 January 2020.<sup>933</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the Executive of Argentina adopted Decreto 549/2020 eliminating temporarily the export tax applicable to raw hides and skins. The purpose of this measure is to support its local

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<sup>928</sup> Decreto 555/2019, Legislative Information of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 9 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/325000-329999/326498/norma.htm>

<sup>929</sup> Resolución 235/2019, Official Journal of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/220956/20191108?busqueda=1>

<sup>930</sup> Decreto 37/2019, Official Journal of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 14 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/223859/20191214?busqueda=1>

<sup>931</sup> Decreto 99/2019, Official Journal of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/224184/20191228>

<sup>932</sup> Decreto 99/2019, Official Journal of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/224184/20191228>

<sup>933</sup> Resolución 1/2020, Official Journal of Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/224467/20200109?busqueda=1>

producers during the COVID-19 outbreak, as due to the sanitary emergency, global trade of these goods was reduced.<sup>934</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the Federal Public Revenue Administration adopted General Resolution 4812/2020 establishing export criterion values on exports of potatoes classified under tariff subheading 0701.90.00. The new export criterion value was set at FOB value of USD 0.15 per kilogram and only applies for exports of potatoes in packages of up to 2.5 kilos excluding plant seed potatoes. This regulation only applies to exports with destination to Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.<sup>935</sup>

Argentina rolled back several restrictive measures but at the same time introduced new ones.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia has partially complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

Australia introduced new trade-restrictive measures during the monitoring period.

On 1 September 2019, the Australian government introduced mandatory import permits on cut flowers and foliage from Kenya, Colombia and Ecuador. The permit application must include details on supply chain management system.<sup>936</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Minister of Treasury of Australia announced a temporary amendment to the Foreign Acquisitions and Takeovers Act 1975, which would make all foreign investments into Australia subject to government approval.<sup>937</sup>

On 9 April 2020 Australia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) of its decision to introduce temporary quantitative restrictions on non-commercial exports of personal protective equipment and sanitizers essential to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the communication the “measure seeks to prevent individuals and criminal syndicates from hoarding, pricegouging and profiteering on noncommercial exports from Australia” and will not cover legitimate commercial and humanitarian exports.<sup>938</sup>

Australia rolled back one of the previously introduced trade-restrictive measures during the monitoring period.

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<sup>934</sup> Decreto 549/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina 23 July 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/229470/20200519?busqueda=1>

<sup>935</sup> Resolución General 4812/2020, Official Gazette of Argentina. Boletín Oficial de la República Argentina. Administración Federal de Ingresos Públicos 11 September 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020.

<https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/234882/20200911?busqueda=1>

<sup>936</sup> 125-2019 — Reminder: Import permits required to import cut flowers and foliage from Kenya, Colombia and Ecuador from 1 September 2019, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment of Australia (Canberra) 5 August 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/import/industry-advice/2019/125-2019>

<sup>937</sup> Changes to foreign investment framework, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://ministers.treasury.gov.au/ministers/josh-frydenberg-2018/media-releases/changes-foreign-investment-framework/>

<sup>938</sup> Notification pursuant to the Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions (G/L/59/REV.1), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm)

On 1 May 2020, Australia notified the WTO of its unilateral trade measure introduced in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The country introduced a temporary tariff concession measure, with custom duty refunds available, to facilitate the importation of supplies critical in the fight against COVID-19 outbreak, including medical and hygiene products.<sup>939</sup>

On 14 September 2020, the Australian government introduced new measures to promote domestic fuel security, including a grants program aimed at “building new domestic fuel storage and backing local refineries to stay open wherever commercially possible,” amounting to AUD200 million.<sup>940</sup>

Australia both introduced new restrictive measures and rolled back some of the existing ones during the monitoring period.

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with the commitment to keep its market open.

On 4 October 2019, President Jair Bolsonaro signed a law to modernize the country’s regulatory regime for telecommunication services. It lifts restrictions on asset sales and seeks to encourage investment in broadband in remote areas of Brazil by allowing companies to own outright telecom assets, such as cell towers and real estate.<sup>941</sup>

On 26 September 2019, the decision was made that allowed the Central Bank of Brazil to authorize to recognize the increase in foreign capital participation in domestic financial institutions, as well as the licensing of new branches of foreign financial institutions, as being in the interest of the government. Furthermore, a new law eliminated, in September 2019, the reciprocity requirement that had regulated insurance and reinsurance operations within the country to date, and which conditioned the capacity of foreign firms to carry out insurance transactions and establish in Brazil on equal treatment of Brazilian insurers in the foreign country.<sup>942</sup>

On 17 June 2019, Brazil’s Congress passed Law 13.842 amending the Brazilian Aviation Code to remove restrictions on foreign ownership and control of national airlines. Previously, airlines wishing to establish in Brazil faced a foreign ownership limit and were required to have exclusive Brazilian management and control. As a result of the amendment, from, international airlines can now own a subsidiary company in Brazil, subject to the requirement that its headquarters and administration are based in the country.

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<sup>939</sup> Unilateral measures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic: measures to facilitate the importation of vital medical supplies, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>940</sup> Boosting Australia’s fuel security, Australian Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/taylor/media-releases/boosting-australias-fuel-security>.

<sup>941</sup> Report shows trade restrictions by WTO members at historically high levels, WTO (Geneva) 12 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dgra\\_12dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_12dec19_e.htm)

<sup>942</sup> Report shows trade restrictions by WTO members at historically high levels, WTO (Geneva) 12 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dgra\\_12dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_12dec19_e.htm)

On 19 November 2019, the Government of Brazil reduced the import duty set on certain yarns of polyester and influenza vaccines for a concrete quota, as well as renewing and altering the application of another tariff-rate quota set on two other products.<sup>943</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (Camex) issued Resolution No 23 reducing the applicable import duties on 400 products enclosed in 114 eight-digits tariff lines. The affected products are related to the regime of auto-parts not produced in the country. The new import duties have been set at 2 per cent. According to the World Trade Organization (WTO) tariff download facility, the previously applicable import tariffs ranged between 4.67 per cent and 20 per cent depending on the product. The new legislation entered into force on 2 January 2020.<sup>944</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the Brazilian government eliminated the import duties set on solar cells.<sup>945</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the Government of Brazil eliminated the import duties on 250 capital goods enclosed in 135 eight-digits tariff lines. However, it restored the import duties on 19 ex-tarifários. The amendment introduced led to an increase in the import duty from 0 per cent to values ranging between 6 per cent and 16.22 per cent depending on the tariff line.<sup>946</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the Government of Brazil eliminated the import duties on 18 information technology and telecommunications products enclosed in 12 eight-digits tariff lines. However, it restored the import duties on four products.<sup>947</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (GECEX) issued Resolution N° 76, amending the products included in the List of Exceptions to the Common External Tariff (LETEC). Concretely, the new regulation removed aluminium foil classified under tariff line 7607.11.90 from this list.<sup>948</sup>

On 21 September 2020, the Executive Committee of the Brazilian Foreign Trade Chamber (GECEX) adopted Resolution N° 92 adding one new product to the List of Exceptions to the Common External Tariff. The new regulation reduced to zero the import tariff set on acrylic or modacrylic synthetic staple fibres classified under tariff subheading NCM 5503.30.00. According to the information from the WTO tariff download facility, the previously applicable duty was set at 16%. These changes apply as of 1 October 2020.<sup>949</sup>

Brazil rolled back several restrictive measures but at the same time introduced new ones.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>943</sup> Resolução N° 11, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 22 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-11-de-19-de-novembro-de-2019-229205656>

<sup>944</sup> RESOLUÇÃO N° 23, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 31 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-23-de-30-de-dezembro-de-2019-236097333>

<sup>945</sup> RESOLUÇÃO N° 25, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 31 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-25-de-30-de-dezembro-de-2019-236099128>

<sup>946</sup> RESOLUÇÃO N° 30, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 31 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-n-30-de-30-de-dezembro-de-2019-237206913>

<sup>947</sup> RESOLUÇÃO GECEX N° 29, Diário Oficial da União (Brasília) 9 January 2020. Access date: 20 May

2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-29-de-30-de-dezembro-de-2019-237206952>

<sup>948</sup> Resolução N° 76 de 25 de agosto de 2020, Diário Oficial da União 25 August 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020.

<https://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/resolucao-gecex-n-76-de-25-de-agosto-de-2020-274388192>

<sup>949</sup> Resolução GECEX No. 92 de 21 de setembro de 2020, Diário Oficial da União



**Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

Canada introduced new trade-restrictive measures during the monitoring period.

On 23 August 2019, the Department of Finance released the communication on the new measures to protect domestic steel and aluminum industry. The measures included new anti-dumping regulations, addition of certain aluminum products to the import control list and making their exports subject to general import permit.<sup>950</sup>

Canada rolled back some of the previously introduced trade-restrictive measures during the monitoring period.

On 23 August 2019, the Department of Finance announced the exclusion of certain specific heavy plate and stainless steel products from the list of goods subject to safeguard measures, allowing Canadian companies to have access to surtax-free sources of supply of the products concerned.<sup>951</sup>

On 11 May 2020 Canada notified the World Trade Organization of its additional unilateral trade measures, taken in response to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. Canada waived custom duties on medical supplies identified in the list of goods critical for combating COVID-19 by the World Health Organization and the World Customs Organization.<sup>952</sup>

On 7 August 2020, the Government of Canada announced its retaliatory measures against the United States for the reimposition of tariffs on aluminum. Canada imposed surcharges against imports of aluminum and aluminum-containing products from the United States., in proportion to the amount of Canadian aluminum products affected by the tariffs imposed by the United States. The measures took effect on 16 August 2020.<sup>953</sup>

Canada both introduced new restrictive measures and rolled back some of the existing ones during the monitoring period.

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

**China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its national market open.

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<sup>950</sup> Government Takes Further Steps to Protect Canada's Steel and Aluminum Workers and Industries, Canadian Department of Finance (Ottawa) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/08/government-takes-further-steps-to-protect-canadas-steel-and-aluminum-workers-and-industries.html>.

<sup>951</sup> Government Takes Further Steps to Protect Canada's Steel and Aluminum Workers and Industries, Canadian Department of Finance (Ottawa) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2019/08/government-takes-further-steps-to-protect-canadas-steel-and-aluminum-workers-and-industries.html>.

<sup>952</sup> Unilateral Measures Relating to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Measures to Facilitate the Importation of Medical Supplies, Including Personal Protective Equipment, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>953</sup> Notice of intent to impose countermeasures action against the United States in response to tariffs on Canadian aluminum products, the Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 August 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/programs/consultations/2020/notice-intent-impose-countermeasures-action-against-united-states-response-tariffs-canadian-aluminum-products.html>.

On 29 November 2019, the Chinese government published new rules concerning ownership of insurance companies in China. According to the new ruling market access was significantly eased, in particular, a requirement of 30-years minimum period of insurance business operations was removed along with some procedural amendments.<sup>954</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the State Council Tariffs and Tax Standards Commission announced that several products would be excluded from the tariff roster imposed on US import back in 2018. New regulations would include various petroleum products and plastics.<sup>955</sup>

On 21 February 2020 the State Council Tariffs and Tax Standards Commission announced that several products would be excluded from the tariff roster imposed on US import back in 2018. New regulations would include various wooden products, machinery, medical and control equipment.<sup>956</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the State Taxation Administration released *Announcement 2020/15*, which raised the export rebate tax on 1,464 products, effective from 20 March. For 380 product lines, the rate was raised to 9%. These included plant growth regulators. For another 1,084 product lines including porcelain sanitary appliances, the rate was raised to 13%.<sup>957</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the Chinese customs authorities suspended import licences of four Australian beef companies without further explanation.<sup>958</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Chinese government released its annual list of sectors in which foreign investments is prohibited. Seven sectors were opened up for foreign capital, including urban water supply, commercial vehicle manufacturing, new wheat breeding, etc.<sup>959</sup>

China imposed new protectionist measures and rolled back several existing ones.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignator*

### **France: Not applicable**

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, France is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

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<sup>954</sup> China: Market access conditions for foreign insurance companies relaxed, Global Trade Alert. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/78444/fdi-entry-and-ownership-rule/china-market-access-conditions-for-foreign-insurance-companies-relaxed>

<sup>955</sup> China: Some retaliatory tariffs on certain US imports waived, Global Trade Alert. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/78047/import-tariff/china-some-retaliatory-tariffs-on-certain-us-imports-waived>

<sup>956</sup> China: More retaliatory tariffs on US imports suspended, Global Trade Alert. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43280/china-more-retaliatory-tariffs-on-us-imports-suspended>

<sup>957</sup> PRC State Taxation Administration, 17 March 2020. (财政部 税务总局公告2020年第15号 关于提高部分产品出口退税率的公告). Access date: 20 August 2020. <http://www.chinatax.gov.cn/chinatax/n810341/n810755/c5146338/content.html>

<sup>958</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs: China suspends acceptance of meat product import declarations from 4 Australian companies, Central Political and Legal Affairs Commission (Beijing) 31 May 2020. (外交部：中方暂停接受4家澳企业肉类产品进口申报) Access date: 28 September 2020. [http://www.chinapeace.gov.cn/chinapeace/c100007/2020-05/13/content\\_12347508.shtml](http://www.chinapeace.gov.cn/chinapeace/c100007/2020-05/13/content_12347508.shtml)

<sup>959</sup> China's 2020 New Negative Lists Signal Further Opening-Up, China Briefing 01 July 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.china-briefing.com/news/chinas-2020-new-negative-lists-signals-further-opening-up/>

On 1 July 2019, the further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (131 tariff lines at eight-digit level, in HS Chapters 35; 37; 39; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90) became effective for EU members.<sup>960</sup>

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Germany: Not applicable**

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, Germany is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

On 1 July 2019, the further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (131 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 35; 37; 39; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90) became effective for EU members.<sup>961</sup>

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepor*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

On 24 August 2019, the Indian Ministry of Finance withdrawn the levy of a surcharge on the capital gains tax payable on the transfer of derivatives (futures and options) by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). The surcharge will continue to be applicable to the gains from the transfer of such derivatives by any person other than FPIs.<sup>962</sup>

On 31 August 2019, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Notification No. 15/2015-2020 amended the import policy for “Agarbatti” and other odoriferous preparations which operate by burning (under HS 3307.41) and other products (under HS 3307.49) to “restricted,” i.e., imports would require a license and also restricted to be used by the importer only. Such imports were free of conditions before.<sup>963</sup>

On 5 September 2019, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Notification No. 18/2015-2020 amended and liberalized the import policy of chlorotrifluoroethene. Earlier, the imports of the same were restricted to only actual users of the product against a license and from a country which is a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. These restrictions have henceforth been removed for chlorotrifluoroethene and it can be freely imported.<sup>964</sup>

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<sup>960</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls).

<sup>961</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls).

<sup>962</sup> Official Press Release — Government withdraws enhanced surcharge on tax payable on transfer of certain assets, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (Delhi) 24 August 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192802>

<sup>963</sup> Notification 15/2015-2020, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 31 August 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/38340/india-import-restriction-on-certain-odoriferous-preparations>

<sup>964</sup> Notification No. 18/2015-2020, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 5 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/notification%20No.%2018%20dated%2005.09.2019%20in%20english.pdf>

On 29 September 2019, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry through Notification No. 21/2015-2020 prohibited the export of onions “until further orders.” The export ban has been announced to control the domestic price rise of onions.<sup>965</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the Ministry of Finance through Notification No. 20/2020-Customs exempted the imports of ventilators, face and surgical masks, personal protection equipment, COVID-19 testing kits, and inputs for the manufacture of any of these products from the customs duty and the health tax.<sup>966</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade through Notification No. 3/2015-2020 amended the export policy of formulations made of paracetamol (including fixed-dose combinations) from “restricted” to “free.” Henceforth, exports of these formulations will not require the application for an export license. The export policy of paracetamol and its formulations was amended to “restricted” on 3 March 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The exports of paracetamol (as an active pharmaceutical ingredient) continue to remain restricted.<sup>967</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Indian Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade notified through Press Note No. 4 (2020 Series) that the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the defence sector under the automatic route has been increased from 49% to 74%. FDI under the automatic route does not require any prior approval from the government. Investments beyond 74% in the defence sector will require prior approval from the government.<sup>968</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the Indian Directorate General of Foreign Trade through Notification No. 33/2015-2020 extended the requirement of prior registration of iron and steel imports under the Steel Import Monitoring System (SIMS) to all goods under the HS chapter 72, 73, and 86. According to the earlier requirement, notified on 5 September 2019, the registration was required for 284 goods listed under these HS chapters.<sup>969</sup>

India both introduced new restrictive measures and rolled back some of the existing ones during the monitoring period.

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

## **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

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<sup>965</sup> Notification No. 49/2015-2020, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 29 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2049%20dt%202.03.2020%20Eng\\_0.pdf](https://dgft.gov.in/sites/default/files/Noti%2049%20dt%202.03.2020%20Eng_0.pdf)

<sup>966</sup> Notification No. 20/2020– Customs, Ministry of Finance (Delhi) 9 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.cbic.gov.in/resources/htdocs-cbec/customs/cs-act/notifications/notfns-2020/cs-tarr2020/cs20-2020.pdf>

<sup>967</sup> Notification No. 03/2015-2020, Directorate General of Foreign Trade (Delhi) 17 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43763/india-export-license-requirement-removed-for-exports-of-formulations-made-from-paracetamol>

<sup>968</sup> Press Note No. 4 (2020 Series), Government of India 17 September 2020. Access date: 10 November 2020. [https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn4-2020\\_0.PDF](https://dipp.gov.in/sites/default/files/pn4-2020_0.PDF)

<sup>969</sup> Notification No. 33/2015-2020, Government of India 28 September 2020. Access date: 10 November 2020. <https://content.dgft.gov.in/Website/dgftprod/cc599109-72a1-4eae-b554-a2bee801fd42/Notification%2033%20english.pdf>

On 13 August 2019, the Ministry of Trade announced regulation 63/2019 on the importation of salt. The regulation rolls back some of the import restrictions in place in the salt industry. In contrast to previous legislation, it allows the importation of salt for purposes other than as raw material.<sup>970</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the Ministry of Trade issued regulation 80/2019 amending regulation 109/2018 on the exportation of coffee. Compared to its original regulation, the amendment makes it easier to obtain a license to export from Indonesia. Whereas previously the exporter needed to face an inspection by the local trading office (Dinas), it now may submit a “self-declaration of conformity” regarding its basic company information inter alia on output, plantation area and the number of employees.<sup>971</sup>

On 24 October 2019, the Minister of Finance issued Regulation Number 153/PMK.010/2019 imposing definitive duties on imports of aluminium foil. The rate of duty between 7 November 2019 and 6 November 2020 is 6 per cent. The rate of duty between 7 November 2020 and 6 November 2021 is 4 per cent. A number of developing countries are exempt from duties.<sup>972</sup>

On 11 January 2020, Indonesian authorities imposed a definitive safeguard duty on imports of evaporators roll-bond evaporator and fin-cross evaporator used in the cooling system of freezers and refrigerators. The rate of duty between 11 January 2020 and 10 January 2021 is 17 per cent. The rate of duty between 11 January 2021 and 10 January 2022 is 15.5 per cent. The rate of duty between 11 January 2022 and 10 January 2023 is 14 per cent. A number of developing countries are exempt from duties.<sup>973</sup>

On 17 April 2020, Indonesia issued Ministry of Finance Regulation No. 34/PMK.04/2020 on Customs and/or Excise and Tax Facilities for the Import of Goods to Handle the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic. This regulation provides an exemption from import duty of the following goods from overseas: Hand sanitiser and disinfectant products; Laboratory test kits and reagents (such as rapid tests); media transfer virus (such as processed culture media for swab tests); medicines and vitamins; medical equipment (such as thermometers or ventilators); and personal protective equipment (such as masks, protective clothes or gloves).<sup>974</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Indonesia issued the Minister of Trade Regulation No.68/2020 to introduce import licensing requirement for the footwear, electronics, and bicycles. The goal was to reduce imports of these commodities to Indonesia.<sup>975</sup>

Indonesia both introduced new restrictive measures and rolled back some of the existing ones during the monitoring period.

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<sup>970</sup> Ministry of Trade regulation 63/2019 (in Bahasa Indonesia), Ministry of Trade of Indonesia (Jakarta) 13 August 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1871/2>

<sup>971</sup> Ministry of Trade regulation 80/2019 (in Bahasa Indonesia), Ministry of Trade of Indonesia (Jakarta) 18 October 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/peraturan/detail/1881/2>

<sup>972</sup> Regulation No. 153/PMK.010/2019, Government of Indonesia, Ministry of Finance (Jakarta) 24 October 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://jdih.kemenkeu.go.id/fullText/2019/153~PMK.010~2019Per.pdf>

<sup>973</sup> WTO, Committee on Safeguards — Notification pursuant to article 12.1(c) of the Agreement on Safeguards — Notification pursuant to article 9, footnote 2 of the Agreement on Safeguards: Indonesia — Evaporators, Document No. G/SG/N/10/IDN/22/Suppl.1 ; G/SG/N/11/IDN/22, WTO (Geneva) 24 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/G/SG/N10IDN22S1.pdf>

<sup>974</sup> Regulation No.34/PMK.04/2020, The Ministry of Finance (MoF) 17 April 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.kemenkeu.go.id/media/14958/pmk-34.pdf>

<sup>975</sup> Regulation No. 68/2020, The Indonesia Minister of Trade 25 August 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <http://jdih.kemendag.go.id/pdf/Regulasi/2020/Permendag%20No.%2068%20Th.%202020.PDF>

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0 for partial compliance.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: Not applicable**

Trade policy is set by the European Commission. Thus, as a member of the European Union, Italy is not assessed for compliance with this commitment.

On 1 July 2019, the further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (131 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS Chapters 35; 37; 39; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90) became effective for the EU members.<sup>976</sup>

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Japan: -1**

Japan has not complied with the commitment to keep its market open.

On 1 August 2019, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan amended foreign direct investment restrictions creating new sectors that are now considered to be new restricted information and communications technology businesses mostly in the telecommunications and technology sectors.<sup>977</sup>

Japan introduced new protectionist measure and did not roll back any existing measures.

Thus, it receives a score of -1.<sup>978</sup>

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Korea: -1**

Korea has not complied with the commitment on keeping the national market open.

On 24 December 2019, the government of Korea announced its intention to cut tariffs on 77 products in 2020. The measure is said to bolster the country's industrial competitiveness and stabilize prices of domestic goods. The products covered by a tariff quota include crude oil, liquefied natural gas and cobalt sulfate, a key ingredient in making batteries for electric vehicles.<sup>979</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the government of Korea extended the antidumping duty on Japanese steel plates. The Korea Trade Commission said Seoul will continue to apply the 13.17 per cent antidumping tariff on the Japanese products for the next five years. Korea has been imposing the tariff on the Japanese plates since April 2011. Recent extension is the second one with the first one announced back in 2016.<sup>980</sup>

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<sup>976</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls).

<sup>977</sup> METI (2019) 対内直接投資等に係る事前届出対象業種の追加等を行います Add industries subject to prior notification pertaining to inward direct investment, etc., Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 1 August 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.meti.go.jp/press/2019/05/20190527002/20190527002.html>

<sup>978</sup> WTO and UNCTAD databases were used to search for trade measures, also search in open sources was conducted.

<sup>979</sup> S. Korea to cut tariff rates on 77 products in 2020, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 24 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191224000149&np=73&mp=8>

<sup>980</sup> S. Korea to extend antidumping duty on Japanese steel plates, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 19 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200319007400320>

On 10 July 2020, the government of Korea introduced an export restriction on medical masks by setting the maximum pricing.<sup>981</sup>

Despite the fact that Korea has announced its intention to cut the tariffs, on evidence proving the realization of this plan has been found. At the same time, the restrictive measures against certain import products have been prolonged.

Thus, Korea receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment to keep its market open.

On 17 September 2019, the Mexican Secretariat of Economy issued a notice decreasing the quota of sugar allowed to be exported to the United States of America during the period lasting from 1 October 2019, to 30 September 2020.<sup>982</sup> The new total volume has been set at 439,315.574 metric tons, which represents a decrease when compared to the 811,513.082 metric tons that was approved for the prior annual period.

On 31 October 2019, the Secretary of Economy of Mexico announced the new applicable reference prices for sugar. The new price has decreased from MXN 12,711.52 per tonne (USD 663.08 at the time of the announcement) to MXN 11,434.32 per ton (USD 596.42 at the time of the announcement).<sup>983</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico adopted a new Agreement modifying the applicable tax exemptions for fuel used by the fishing and agricultural industries. The new legislation decreased the percentage of the subsidized tax credit as it follows:

- from 48.54 per cent to 45.81 per cent in the case of gasoline
- from 56.71 per cent to 52.38 per cent for diesel used by the fishing industry
- from 45.37 per cent to 41.91 per cent in the case of diesel for the agricultural industry.<sup>984</sup>

On 31 December 2019, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico adopted a new Agreement modifying the applicable tax exemptions for fuel used by the fishing and agricultural industries. The new legislation increased the percentage of the subsidized tax credit as it follows:

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<sup>981</sup> Mask emergency supply and demand adjustment measure, the Ministry of Justice (Seoul) 10 July 2020. (마스크 긴급수급조정조치). Access date: 28 September 2020.

<http://www.law.go.kr/LSW/admRulLsInfoP.do?admRulSeq=2100000190915>

<sup>982</sup> Aviso Mediante El Cual Se Da A Conocer El Monto Del Cupo Máximo, Para Exportar Azúcar A Los Estados Unidos De América Durante El Periodo Comprendido Entre El 1 De Octubre De 2019 Y El 30 De Septiembre De 2020, Official journal of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

[http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5572454&fecha=17/09/2019](http://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5572454&fecha=17/09/2019)

<sup>983</sup> AVISO por el que se da a conocer el precio de referencia del azúcar base estándar para el pago de la caña de azúcar de la zafra 2019/2020, propuesto por el Comité Nacional para el Desarrollo Sustentable de la Caña de Azúcar, Official journal of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

[http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5577349&fecha=31/10/2019](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5577349&fecha=31/10/2019)

<sup>984</sup> ACUERDO por el que se dan a conocer los estímulos fiscales a la gasolina y al diésel en los sectores pesquero y agropecuario para el mes de diciembre de 2019, Official journal of Mexico (Mexico City) 29 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5580415&fecha=29/11/2019](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5580415&fecha=29/11/2019)

- from 45.81 per cent to 48.33 per cent in the case of gasoline,
- from 52.38 per cent to 57.02 per cent for diesel used by the fishing industry,
- from 41.91 per cent to 45.61 per cent in the case of diesel for the agricultural industry.<sup>985</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Secretariat of Finance and Public Credit of Mexico adopted a new Agreement modifying the applicable tax exemptions for fuel used by the fishing and agricultural industries. The new legislation increased the percentage of the subsidized tax credit from 40.40 per cent to 40.74 per cent in the case of gasoline. As for the subsidy applicable to fuel the percentages have been kept at the same level as in the previous month.<sup>986</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Mexican government announced the elimination of the import tariffs applicable to new electric vehicles. The Decree has two main purposes: (i) specify the eight-digit HS codes for electric vehicles; and (ii) eliminate the import tariffs for the following three eight-digit HS codes: 8702.90.07, 8703.90.01, 8704.90.01. According to the Decree and the WTO Tariff Download Facility, the previous tariffs were set at 15%. The Decree entered into force on 4 September 2020 and will be valid until 30 September 2024.<sup>987</sup>

Mexico has launched a new protectionist measure during the compliance period. At the same time, some of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

## **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 25 October 2019, Russia notified the World Trade Organization (WTO) on several trade-facilitating measures, including extension of the temporary elimination of export duties on certain types of wheat (effective 29 June 2019 to 1 July 2021); temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain products, e.g., (from 5 per cent) on high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, whether or not textured, of aramids (effective 4 July 2019 to 31 July 2022), aniline and its salts (effective 4 July 2019 to 30 June 2022), (from 7.5 per cent) on non-coniferous chemical wood pulp, semi-bleached or bleached (effective 14 July 2019 to 31 May 2022); reduction of import tariffs on motor cars and other motor vehicles principally designed for the transport of persons, including station wagons and racing cars; and (from 11.4 per cent to 10 per cent; from 15.7 per cent to 15 per cent and from 13.6 per cent to 12.5 per cent) on certain aircraft (for example helicopters, aeroplanes); spacecraft (including satellites) and suborbital and spacecraft launch vehicles (effective 1 September 2019).<sup>988</sup> On 21 August 2019, Russia temporary increased import tariffs (from zero to 5 per cent) on mixing or

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<sup>985</sup> ACUERDO por el que se dan a conocer los estímulos fiscales a la gasolina y al diésel en los sectores pesquero y agropecuario para el mes de enero de 2020, Official journal of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5583177&fecha=31/12/2019](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5583177&fecha=31/12/2019)

<sup>986</sup> Acuerdo por el que se dan a conocer los estímulos fiscales a la gasolina y al diésel en los sectores pesquero y agropecuario para el mes de marzo de 2020, Diario Oficial de la Federación 28 February 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5587911&fecha=28/02/2020](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5587911&fecha=28/02/2020)

<sup>987</sup> DECRETO por el que se modifica la Tarifa de la Ley de los Impuestos Generales de Importación y de Exportación, Diario Oficial de la Federación 3 September 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://sidof.segob.gob.mx/notas/5599614>

<sup>988</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls)



kneading machines (concrete or mortar mixers). The measure will be effective until 31 August 2021.<sup>989</sup>

On 25 August 2019, Russia temporarily suspended antidumping duties on imports of steel railway wheels from Ukraine.<sup>990</sup>

On 2 February 2020, Russia temporarily increased import tariffs (from zero to 5 per cent) on light-emitting diode (LED) lamps. The measure will be effective until 31 December 2020.<sup>991</sup>

On 27 May 2020, Russia's Permanent Delegation to the WTO notified the Organization about several trade-facilitating measures, including: extension of the temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain cocoa and cocoa preparation; temporary elimination of import tariffs (from 10 per cent) on vanadium (effective 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021); (from 5 per cent) on surimi (effective 26 March 2020 to 30 April 2023); on stamping foils (effective 6 March 2020 to 31 August 2022); and on vanadium oxides and hydroxides (effective 22 February 2020 to 31 December 2020); (from 14 per cent) on rods of optical glass (effective 23 January 2020 to 31 December 2020); on terephthalic acids (14 April 2020 to 31 December 2021); on accessories for the production of handheld power tools (effective 8 May 2020 to 30 June 2022); on electric cars (effective 4 May 2020 to 31 December 2021); on polyurethane and epoxy coatings for the production of optical fibre (effective 14 April 2020 to 31 December 2020); and on certain kinds of shellfish and krill meat (effective 26 March 2020 to 1 April 2023); and creation of a new tariff line, "certain LED lamps" (HS 8539.50.00.01; 8539.50.00.02; 8539.50.00.09) resulting in the temporary elimination of import tariffs.<sup>992</sup>

Russia has launched a new protectionist measure during the compliance period. At the same time, some of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on keeping the national market open.

On 15 April 2020, the cabinet of Saudi Arabia adopted Royal Decree number (M/108) amending the FDI regime. These changes entailed pharmaceutical wholesale warehouses and medicinal consultation and analytical centres being allowed to be 100% owned and managed by foreign investors.<sup>993</sup>

On 18 July 2020, Saudi Arabia's Customs Authority announced an increase in customs duty rates that is expected to affect more than 2000 tariff lines.<sup>994</sup>

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<sup>989</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls).

<sup>990</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls).

<sup>991</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 28 September 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_jun20\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_annex_bis_jun20_e.xls).

<sup>992</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 28 September. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_jun20\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/g20_annex_bis_jun20_e.xls).

<sup>993</sup> Pharmaceutical Businesses Opening for Foreign Investment, JD SUPRA 15 April 2002. Access date: 5 October 2020. <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/pharmaceutical-businesses-opening-for-46092>

<sup>994</sup> The Kingdom publishes a list of commodities whose customs duties are to be increased, Al Borsa News 18 July 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. [https://alborsaanews.com/app/uploads/2020/05/1590835573\\_225\\_1021081\\_.pdf](https://alborsaanews.com/app/uploads/2020/05/1590835573_225_1021081_.pdf)

Saudi Arabia removed several protectionist measures, but some of those imposed within the monitoring period are still in place.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on keeping its national market open.

On 16 August 2019, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) increased the general import duties on tinplate. New regulation raises the import tariff up to 10 per cent.<sup>995</sup>

On 20 September 2019, the SARS lifted the customs duty on wheat and wheaten flour by 30–40 per cent.<sup>996</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the SARS increased the general import duties on beet and cane sugar by approximately 20 per cent.<sup>997</sup>

On 25 October 2019, the SARS increased the general import duties on wheat and wheaten products by 30–60 per cent.<sup>998</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the SARS decreased the general import duties on wheat and wheaten products by 20–30 per cent.<sup>999</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the SARS decreased the general import duties on wheat and wheaten products and sugar.<sup>1000,1001</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the SARS increased the import duties on frozen chicken portions and frozen boneless chicken portions.<sup>1002</sup>

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<sup>995</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 42640 No. R. 1075 of 16 August 2019. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2019-32%20-%20R1075%20GG42640%20Sch%201P1%20Tin%20Plate.pdf>

<sup>996</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 42529 No. R. 924 of 14 June 2019. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2019-26%20-%20R924%20GG42529%20Schedule%201P1%20Wheat.pdf>

<sup>997</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 42773 No. R.1346 of 18 October 2019. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/38666/sacu-customs-duty-increase-on-sugar-october-2019>

<sup>998</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 42789 No. R. 1383 of 25 October 2019. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2019-39%20-%20R1383%20GG42789%20WHEAT.pdf>

<sup>999</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 42959 No. R. 36 of 17 January 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/43155/sacu-customs-duty-decrease-on-wheat-and-wheaten-products-january-2020>

<sup>1000</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 43061 No. R. 237 of 12 March 2020. Access date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2020-18%20-%20R237%20GG43061%20Sch1P1%20Wheat%20-%202%20March%202020.pdf>

<sup>1001</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 43061 No. R.238 of 2 March 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2020-17%20-%20R238%20GG43061%20Sch1P1%20Sugar%20-%202%20March%202020.pdf>

<sup>1002</sup> Government Gazette No. 43091 No. R.309 of 13 March 2020. Access date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2020-19%20-%20R309%20GG43091%20Sch%201%20Part%201%20Chicken%20Eng%20-%2013%20March%202020.pdf>

On 3 July 2020, the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition placed a two-month ban on the export of ferrous and non-ferrous waste and scrap metals.<sup>1003</sup>

On 24 July 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) announced increasing the import duties on beet and cane sugar from 418.61 c/kg (approximately 0.25 USD/kg) to 527,75 c/kg (approximately 0.32 USD/kg).<sup>1004</sup>

On 4 September 2020, the South African Revenue Service (SARS) increase the customs duty on wheat and wheat flour.<sup>1005</sup>

South Africa removed several protectionist measures, but some of those imposed within the monitoring period are still in place.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 25 October 2019, the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry announced imposing a temporary import ban on the imports of breeding cattle. It is announced in the press release that, with the measure, the government aims at balancing the supply and demand conditions of the breeding cattle to ensure the sustainable development of the animal husbandry. The ministry announced that the import ban is imposed temporarily, however, the announcement did not specify when the import ban will be abolished.<sup>1006</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the government of Turkey introduced additional customs duties on forklifts and other works trucks classified under the tariff subheadings 8427.10, 8427.20 and 8427.90.<sup>1007</sup>

On 21 March 2020, the government of Turkey revised the licensing requirement (2020/1) on imports of safety glass of size and shape suitable for incorporation in motor vehicles classified under the tariff subheadings 7007.11.10 and 7007.21.20. With the revision, the subject products are excluded from the licensing requirement.<sup>1008</sup>

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<sup>1003</sup> International Trade Administration Act (71/2002): Amendment of policy directive on the exportation of ferrous and non-ferrous waste and scrap metal, the Government Gazette, 02 September 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. [http://www.itac.org.za/upload/43677\\_02-09\\_TradeIndusCompetition%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.itac.org.za/upload/43677_02-09_TradeIndusCompetition%20(1).pdf)

<sup>1004</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 43543 of 24 July 2020, Notice R.809. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/state-act/44705/sacu-customs-duty-increase-on-sugar-july-2020>

<sup>1005</sup> South Africa Revenue Service (SARS), Government Gazette No. 43061 of 12 March 2020 Notice R. 237. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.sars.gov.za/AllDocs/Embargo/Tariffs/LAPD-LSec-CE-TA-2020-18%20-%20R237%20GG43061%20Sch1P1%20Wheat%20-%20%20March%202020.pdf>

<sup>1006</sup> Press Release of the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry concerning the import ban on breeding cattle, Turkish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Ankara) 15 October 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.tarimorman.gov.tr/HAYGEM/Haber/104/Basin-Duyurusu>

<sup>1007</sup> Presidential Decree on Import Regime, Official gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 12 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2019/12/20191212-14.pdf>

<sup>1008</sup> Amendment Communique on Import Surveillance No. 2020/1, Official gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 21 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/03/20200321-6.htm>

On 25 March 2020, the government of Turkey abolished the additional duties imposed on disposable masks classified in the Turkish Customs Schedule under the customs tariff code 6307.90.98.10.11. The decision is taken as part of the efforts to cope with the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1009</sup>

On 18 April 2020, through a presidential decree, the government of Turkey temporarily increased the import duties on iron and steel products by 5 per cent. With the decision, tariff rates of 68 HS codes under the tariff chapter 72 is increased. The increase in the tariff rates will be valid until 15 July 2020. Tariff rates will be reduced to their previous levels after this date.<sup>1010</sup>

On 9 June 2020, the government of Turkey issued a presidential decree increasing the import duties on outdoor plants and corks. More specifically, the government increased the import duties on outdoor plants from 3.9 per cent to 19.5 per cent.<sup>1011</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the government of Turkey introduced additional customs duties on certain agricultural products in the rates ranging from 4.3 per cent to 20 per cent. Notably, the products include pasta, chewing gums, cocoa powder, chocolate, mate, sugar confectionery, yeasts, malt beer, and some food preparations including bread, pastry, biscuits, cereals, etc.<sup>1012</sup>

Turkey has implemented new protectionist measures during the compliance period. At the same time, some of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with the commitment on trade.

On 1 July 2019, the further reduction of import tariffs under the Expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (131 tariff lines at 8-digit level, in HS chapters 35; 37; 39; 59; 84; 85; 88; 90) became effective for members of the European Union.<sup>1013</sup>

On 17 December 2019, the European Union issued imposed an additional import duty on a number of fruit and vegetables for the period 2020-2021.<sup>1014</sup>

The UK has introduced several trade measures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, on 13 March 2020, the UK announced the introduction of an export ban on hydroxychloroquine due to anticipated shortages in the country following the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1015</sup> On 20 March 2020, the export

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<sup>1009</sup> Presidential Decree on Import Regime No: 2286, Official gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 25 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/03/20200325-6.pdf>

<sup>1010</sup> Amendment Decree to the Import Regime Decree, Official gazette of Turkey (Ankara) 18 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/04/20200418-7.pdf>

<sup>1011</sup> İthalat Rejim Kararına Ek Karar, No.2638, Official gazette of Turkey 9 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/06/20200609-15.pdf>

<sup>1012</sup> thalat Rejim Kararına Ek Karar. No: 2819, Official gazette of Turkey 5 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.resmigazete.gov.tr/eskiler/2020/08/20200805-6.pdf>

<sup>1013</sup> Summary and Status of G-20 trade and trade-related measures since October 2008 (Excel Format), WTO. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/g20\\_annex\\_bis\\_november19\\_e.xls](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/g20_annex_bis_november19_e.xls)

<sup>1014</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2163 of 17 December 2019, Official Journal of the European Union 18 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R2163>.

<sup>1015</sup> Medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, UK Government 20 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874142/Medicines\\_that\\_cannot\\_be\\_parallel\\_exported\\_from\\_the\\_UK\\_20\\_March.csv/preview](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874142/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_20_March.csv/preview).

ban was expanded to cover 82 medicines.<sup>1016</sup> On 31 March 2020, several additional medicines were included in the list.<sup>1017</sup> At the same time, the UK temporarily eliminated the import duty and the value-added tax (VAT) imposed on imports of certain medical supplies, equipment and protective garments.<sup>1018</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission announced temporary elimination of the VAT on imports and import duty on some goods in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>1019</sup>

On 23 April 2020, 15 June 2020 and 7 September 2020, the UK included 36 additional medical medicines in the list of medicines that cannot be exported from the country.<sup>1020</sup>

The UK has implemented new protectionist measures during the compliance period. At the same time, some of the existing measures were rolled back.

Thus, the UK receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **United States: -1**

The United States has not complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

The United States introduced trade-restrictive measures during the monitoring period.

On 6 January 2020, the United States Bureau of Industry and Security enacted new regulations restricting exports of certain artificial intelligence software. With the new regulations the Bureau made neural network software “subject to license requirement for the export and reexport ... to all destinations, except Canada.”<sup>1021</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the United States Congress Passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The Act contained provisions of discriminatory nature to foreign goods and services, including direct financial grants and tax relief to American enterprises.<sup>1022</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund of the United States Treasury Department announced the start of 2020 Bank Enterprise Award Program inviting

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<sup>1016</sup> Medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, UK Government 20 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/874142/Medicines\\_that\\_cannot\\_be\\_parallel\\_exported\\_from\\_the\\_UK\\_20\\_March.csv/preview](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/874142/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK_20_March.csv/preview).

<sup>1017</sup> List of medicines that cannot be parallel exported from the UK, UK Government 3 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/877739/Medicines\\_that\\_cannot\\_be\\_parallel\\_exported\\_from\\_the\\_UK.csv/preview](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877739/Medicines_that_cannot_be_parallel_exported_from_the_UK.csv/preview).

<sup>1018</sup> Pay no import duty and VAT on medical supplies, equipment and protective garments (COVID-19), UK Government 31 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pay-no-import-duty-and-vat-on-medical-supplies-equipment-and-protective-garments-covid-19>

<sup>1019</sup> Commission Decision (EU) 2020/491 of 3 April 2020 on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020, Official Journal of the European Union 3 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2020/491/oj>.

<sup>1020</sup> Medicines that you cannot export from the UK or hoard, UK Government 7 September 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/medicines-that-cannot-be-parallel-exported-from-the-uk>.

<sup>1021</sup> Federal Register / Vol. 85, No. 3 / Rules and Regulations, United States Government (Washington) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-01-06/pdf/2019-27649.pdf>.

<sup>1022</sup> Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act or the CARES Act, United States Congress (Washington) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/748>

applications for the fiscal year 2020 funding round. The program distributes grants for community development projects. The applicants must, inter alia, comply with the Buy American Act of 1933.<sup>1023</sup>

On 3 April 2020, US President Donald Trump issued the Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, restricting exports of personal protective equipment from the United States.<sup>1024</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the Federal Emergency Management Agency published a temporary rule making exports of certain types of personal protective equipment subject to the agency's approval.<sup>1025</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the United States notified the World Trade Organization of the introduction of temporary measure requiring export authorization for the producers of certain personal protective equipment items, namely several types of respirators, surgical masks, protective gloves or surgical gloves.<sup>1026</sup>

On 24 June 2020, President Trump signed the Presidential Determination No. 2020–07, designating industrial base production capability for ultra-high and high temperature composites for hypersonic, strategic missile, and space launch systems is essential to the national defense. Such designation, under the 1950 Defense Production Act, provides the President with authority to, inter alia, effectively control exports of sensitive goods.<sup>1027</sup>

On 6 August 2020, President Trump signed the Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Aluminum into the United States, reimposing a 10 per cent duty on imports of aluminum from Canada. The new measures took effect from 16 August 2020.<sup>1028</sup>

On 28 August 2020, President Trump signed Proclamation 10064 Adjusting Imports of Steel into the United States. The document provided for a further decrease of the quota applied to the imports from Brazil of steel semi-finished blooms, billets and slabs by 10 per cent for the duration of 2020.<sup>1029</sup>

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<sup>1023</sup> Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, US Treasury Department (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date 14 May 2020. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/04/03/2020-07012/community-development-financial-institutions-fund>.

<sup>1024</sup> Memorandum on Allocating Certain Scarce or Threatened Health and Medical Resources to Domestic Use, White House (Washington) 3 April 2020. Access Date 14 May 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/memorandum-allocating-certain-scarce-threatened-health-medical-resources-domestic-use/>.

<sup>1025</sup> United States of America: Presidential memorandum and subsequent FEMA rule restricting exports by intermediaries of personal protective equipment, Global Trade Alert 10 April 2020. Access Date 14 May 2020. <https://www.globaltradealert.org/intervention/78995/export-ban/united-states-of-america-presidential-memorandum-and-subsequent-fema-rule-restricting-exports-by-intermediaries-of-personal-protective-equipment>.

<sup>1026</sup> Notification pursuant to the Decision on notification procedures for quantitative restrictions (G/L/59/Rev.1), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/covid19\\_e/notifications\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/covid19_e/notifications_e.htm).

<sup>1027</sup> Presidential Determination Pursuant to Section 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950, as Amended, United States Federal Register 24 June 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-06-29/pdf/2020-14090.pdf>.

<sup>1028</sup> Proclamation on Adjusting Imports of Aluminum Into the United States, the United States President (Washington) 6 August 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-adjusting-imports-aluminum-united-states-080620/>.

<sup>1029</sup> Adjusting Imports of Steel Into the United States, United States Federal Register (Washington) 28 August 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/02/2020-19595/adjusting-imports-of-steel-into-the-united-states>.

The United States introduced trade-restrictive measures but failed to roll back any pre-existing protectionist measures during the monitoring period.

Thus, it is awarded a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to keep the markets open.

On 18 February 2020, the Council of the European Union issued Regulation (EU) 2020/231 amending the 2019-2020 import tariff quota list to expand the HS code coverage of certain hard fish roes to include HS code 1604.32.00 alongside the already included HS code 0305.20.00, see related state act. The import tariff quota was set at 1,500 tonnes for fresh or frozen hard fish roes salted or in brine, for processing falling under both HS code 1604.32.00 and 0305.20.00, with in-quota imports exempt from the import duty set at 20%.<sup>1030</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Commission issued Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/426 of 19 March 2020 permitting exports of certain personal protective equipment including protective masks, gloves and garments to a number of countries without a license.<sup>1031</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission issued Decision (EU) 2020/491 eliminating the import duty on certain goods imported and distributed free of charge to persons either at risk from or affected by COVID-19 as well as persons combating it the COVID-19 outbreak. Additionally, goods released for free circulation which are imported by or on behalf of the state including “State bodies, public bodies and other bodies governed by public law or by or on behalf of organisations approved by the competent authorities in the Member States.” Notably, the value-added tax on imported goods was also eliminated, see related intervention.<sup>1032</sup>

The European Union’s action to expand its tariff quote on fisheries to allow more fish to be imported had a liberalizing effect, while the rollback of the earlier COVID-19 related measures was a liberalization aimed at resporing the earlier level. Thus the net effect was to keep the EU market open.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>1030</sup> Council Regulation (EU) 2020/231 of 18 February 2020, amending Regulation (EU) 2018/1977 opening and providing for the management of autonomous Union tariff quotas for certain fishery products for the period 2019-2020, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 20 February 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32020R0231>

<sup>1031</sup> Commission Implementing (EU) 2020/426 of 19 March 2020, amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/402 making the exportation of certain products subject to the production of an export authorization, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg\\_impl/2020/426/oj](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/426/oj)

<sup>1032</sup> Commission Decision (EU) 2020/491 of 3 April 2020, on relief from import duties and VAT exemption on importation granted for goods needed to combat the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during 2020, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2020/491/oj>

#### 4. Trade: Reform of the World Trade Organization

“We reaffirm our support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

##### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	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			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

##### Background

International trade and issues relating to the World Trade Organization (WTO) have been key topics of discussion at every G20 summit since the 2008 Washington Summit, where members agreed to “strive to reach agreement this year on modalities that leads to a successful conclusion to the WTO’s Doha Development Agenda with an ambitious and balanced outcome.”<sup>1033</sup> This summit introduced the established commitment to reject protectionism that featured in every communiqué until the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, and was the first of many commitments to conclude the Doha Development Round as soon as possible. The Doha Development Round of trade negotiations primarily concerns the introduction of lower tariff barriers as well as reforms to include agriculture, services, and intellectual property in the purview of WTO regulations.<sup>1034</sup>

<sup>1033</sup> Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

<sup>1034</sup> The Doha Round, World Trade Organization (Geneva) No Date. Access Date: 12 December 2019. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dda\\_e/dda\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dda_e.htm)



The 2012 Los Cabos Summit declaration included a commitment to “urge progress in streamlining WTO accession procedures for the world’s poorest countries, in addition to the standard commitments on anti-protectionism and completing the Doha Development Round.”<sup>1035</sup>

The 2013 St. Petersburg Summit declaration emphasized the importance of regional trade agreements within the context of the WTO and included a document titled “Advancing Transparency in Regional Trade Agreements” as an annex to the declaration.<sup>1036</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the “Hangzhou consensus” feature of openness included a commitment to reject protectionism and promote global trade and investment.<sup>1037</sup> The communiqué also supported the work of the recently established G20 Trade and Investment Working Group.<sup>1038</sup>

The 2017 Hamburg Summit declaration discussed how the “benefits of international trade and investment have not been shared widely enough” and proceeded to outline a commitment to mitigate the harmful effects of trade while nevertheless re-affirming the “crucial role” of the rules-based global trading system.<sup>1039</sup>

The 2018 Buenos Aires Summit leaders’ declaration “[noted] current trade issues” and stated that the multilateral trading system “is currently falling short of its objectives,” marking the greatest emphasis placed on WTO reform of any G20 summit until that date.<sup>1040</sup> It lacked any mention of fighting protectionism.

### **Commitment Features**

This commitment requires members to support the necessary reform of the WTO. For the purposes of this assessment, “support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”<sup>1041</sup> Such support can encompass implementing new policies or supporting existing policies that contribute to WTO reform.

WTO reform concerns three key features, which are based on key priorities outlined by WTO director-general Roberto Azevêdo on 19 July 2019: addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system including the current shortage of appointments to the Appellate Body, “strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies; and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.”<sup>1042</sup> The proposed WTO reforms mainly concern the work program of the ongoing Doha Development Round.

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<sup>1035</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.pdf>

<sup>1036</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2013. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html#trade>

<sup>1037</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

<sup>1038</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

<sup>1039</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1040</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1041</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

<sup>1042</sup> Azevêdo: WTO reform is already happening, World Trade Organization (Washington) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/tnc\\_19jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tnc_19jul19_e.htm)

Actions that count for addressing the dispute settlement system include active discussion both within and outside the WTO framework to resolve the current impasse over appointments to the WTO’s Appellate Body and participation in discussions to ensure that the Appellate Body will be sufficiently responsive to national sovereignty concerns in the future.

Actions that count for strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies include improving monitoring of WTO regulations, increasing transparency in applying WTO regulations, respecting decisions made by the Appellate Body in contentious cases, and generally working to uphold the rules-based global trade regime. Actions can be either domestic or international in nature and include the sharing of best practices with regards to upholding WTO regulations.

Actions that count for improving the WTO’s negotiating work include making substantive proposals, cooperating in negotiations on sensitive matters such as fisheries and agricultural subsidies, updating the global trade system to reflect recent technological developments, and balancing the concerns of both corporations and citizens regarding global trade.

To fully comply with the commitment, members must take action in all three commitment areas of resolving the current impasse over appointments to the WTO’s Appellate Body, strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work. To partially comply, members must take action in two of the three commitment areas. In addition, actions will be differentiated based on whether they are a strong or weak action in the commitment area. Strong actions for this commitment are defined as newly implemented policies, proposals that directly originate from the member as opposed to proposals that the member is a signatory to and policies that indicate a significant degree of support for the WTO and the current reform process. Members must take at least two strong actions to fully comply with the commitment and at least one strong action to partially comply. No compliance indicates a member has taken action in none or one of the commitment areas.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member takes action in zero or one of the three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse OR strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies OR improving the WTO’s negotiating work.
0	G20 member takes action in two of the three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse OR strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies OR improving the WTO’s negotiating work. Member takes at least one strong action.
+1	G20 member takes action in all three commitment areas of resolving the current Appellate Body impasse AND strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies AND improving the WTO’s negotiating work. Member takes at least two strong actions.

*Compliance Director: Christopher Sims  
Lead Analysts: Sonja Dobson and Daniel Scarpitti*

**Argentina: +1**

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

From 16 to 18 July 2019, Argentina and Peru held the second round of negotiations for a trade agreement.<sup>1043</sup> The negotiations were meant to consolidate bilateral trade relations and modernize existing framework which establish free trade of goods.<sup>1044</sup> Argentina stressed its negotiating efforts in relation to certain sectors, such as government procurement and services, agriculture and industry.<sup>1045</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the Argentine-India Business Forum was held, where the Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry, Secretary of Foreign Trade, the President of the Argentine Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, the Indian Ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine Ambassador to India were present.<sup>1046</sup> A large delegation of companies of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) were invited.<sup>1047</sup> Meetings were held between Argentine and Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.<sup>1048</sup> The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.<sup>1049</sup>

On 4 October 2019, a Business Forum was held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship and the French-Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.<sup>1050</sup> The event was attended by the French Ambassador, president of CII France Argentine, European Union Ambassador and the Undersecretary for Commercial Strategy and Economic Promotion of Foreign Ministry.<sup>1051</sup> It discussed the opportunities and challenges of the bilateral economic ties and stressed specifically on three sectors with an eye to the future; energy, human resources and transport.<sup>1052</sup>

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<sup>1043</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

<sup>1044</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

<sup>1045</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Argentina-Peru negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/2nd-round-argentina-peru-negotiations>

<sup>1046</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1047</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1048</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1049</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1050</sup> Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

<sup>1051</sup> Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

<sup>1052</sup> Business Forum with France held at the Argentine Foreign Ministry, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-france-held-argentine-foreign-ministry>

On 16 January, Argentina was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1053</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1054</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Argentina held trade discussions with the United Kingdom regarding strengthening existing trade relations.<sup>1055</sup> The meeting, which saw foreign office officials from both countries for the first time, involved discussions on boosting trade and investment.<sup>1056</sup> The meeting is said to have revolved around additional matters of climate change, human rights, and boosting trade in transport, public services, oil, gas and financial services.<sup>1057</sup> However, Argentine ministers have made clear that further discussions will only occur if the UK is willing to discuss the Falklands claim issue.<sup>1058</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Argentinian Foreign Affairs Minister Felipe Sola called on countries to “strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation.”<sup>1059</sup> Speaking to the G20 members, he said the COVID-19 crisis “has reaffirmed our conviction that we must work to strengthen multilateralism and solidarity.”<sup>1060</sup> Sola specially mentioned the cooperation between Argentina and Mexico to manufacture and distribute a British made vaccine as an example of the kind of global cooperation Argentina seeks to promote.<sup>1061</sup>

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Argentina took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.<sup>1062</sup> The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise

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<sup>1053</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1054</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1055</sup> UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

<sup>1056</sup> UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

<sup>1057</sup> UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

<sup>1058</sup> UK/Argentina discuss trade and business opportunities, but also Malvinas, MercoPress (Buenos Aires) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://en.mercopress.com/2020/03/03/uk-argentina-discuss-trade-and-business-opportunities-but-also-malvinas>

<sup>1059</sup> Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c\\_139341075.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm)

<sup>1060</sup> Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c\\_139341075.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm)

<sup>1061</sup> Argentina champions multilateralism, global cooperation at G20, Xinhua Net, 4 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c\\_139341075.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139341075.htm)

<sup>1062</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”<sup>1063</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1064</sup>

Argentina has participated in addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system in signing onto the proposal to fill vacant seats on the Appellate Body. Additionally, Argentina has strengthened the work of the WTO's regular bodies in working to uphold the rules-based global trade regime and taken action as a member of the Cairns Group to improve the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Srijan Sabu*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 5 July 2019, Australia announced further support for its partnership with two key programs of the World Trade Organization — the Enhanced Integrated Framework and the Standards and Trade Development Facility, in recognition of the importance of the WTO in driving economic growth, reducing global poverty and advancing gender equality.<sup>1065</sup> Australia's new commitments total over \$8 million.

On 20 August 2019, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham acknowledged the WTO's role in upholding the rules-based trading system and discussed the importance of regional trade agreements in a meeting with Malaysian International Trade and Industry Minister YB Datuk Darell Leiking.<sup>1066</sup> Ministers also expressed a shared interest in contributing to WTO reform to ensure the on-going value of the institution in the future.<sup>1067</sup>

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<sup>1063</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1064</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1065</sup> Australia advances its commitment to aid for trade, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 5 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

<sup>1066</sup> Australia-Malaysia Trade Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 20 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

<sup>1067</sup> Australia-Malaysia Trade Ministers' Meeting, Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment (Canberra) 20 August 2019. Access Date: February 25, 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-malaysia-trade-ministers-meeting>

On 14 November 2019, Australia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Mexico, at the WTO.<sup>1068</sup> The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”<sup>1069</sup>

On 16 January, Australia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1070</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1071</sup>

On 24 January 2019, Australia, the European Union, China, and 14 other WTO members agreed to create a temporary mechanism to settle trade disputes after American action rendered the Appellate Body incapable of effective policing world trade.<sup>1072</sup> The nations agreed to preserve the WTO’s two-step dispute system until the Appellate Body becomes functional again.<sup>1073</sup>

On 24 January 2019, Australia, Japan, and Singapore hosted an informal meeting to discuss electronic commerce negotiations.<sup>1074</sup> The countries discussed building up momentum in the negotiations into and beyond the Twelfth Ministerial Conference in June 2020.<sup>1075</sup> Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Simon Birmingham said that the negotiations “promotes digital trade and supports the modern trade needs of businesses, while boosting privacy and other consumer protections.”<sup>1076</sup>

On 30 September 2019, Australia attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session. Alongside Mexico, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, Australia proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal, cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services. The proposal

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<sup>1068</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1069</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1070</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1071</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1072</sup> Canada, EU, China, others agree on temporary fix to WTO crisis, AGCanada (Brussels) 25 Jan 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.agcanada.com/daily/canada-eu-china-others-agree-on-temporary-fix-to-wto-crisis>

<sup>1073</sup> Canada, EU, China, others agree on temporary fix to WTO crisis, AGCanada (Brussels) 25 Jan 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.agcanada.com/daily/canada-eu-china-others-agree-on-temporary-fix-to-wto-crisis>

<sup>1074</sup> Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

<sup>1075</sup> Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

<sup>1076</sup> Australia, Japan, and Singapore welcome good progress in WTO electronic commerce negotiations, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment (Davos) 28 Jan 2019. Access Date: 25 February 2020. <https://www.trademinister.gov.au/minister/simon-birmingham/media-release/australia-japan-and-singapore-welcome-good-progress-wto-electronic-commerce-negotiations>

states that these actions would “reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives.”<sup>1077</sup>

On 14 November 2019, Australia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Mexico, at the WTO. The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”<sup>1078</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister for Trade, Tourism, and Investment Simon Birmingham signed a Joint Ministerial statement with Canada and three other nations joining New Zealand and Singapore in affirming supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1079</sup> The signatories committed to ensuring the openness of trade lines and addressing trade disruptions, especially of critical medical supplies.<sup>1080</sup>

On 27 March 2020, Australia and 15 other members of the WTO have decided to put into place a Multi-party Interim Agreement (MPIA) for allowing appeals of panel reports in trade disputes.<sup>1081</sup> The MPIA is intended to restore access to a binding dispute settlement system between participating countries until the WTO Appellate Body is fully functional.<sup>1082</sup>

On 9 June 2020, the Appellate Body issued a report in the cases brought by Honduras and the Dominican Republic against Australia on measures concerning trademarks and packaging requirements.<sup>1083</sup> The Appellate Body found that Australia did not violate its obligations under Article 20 of the TRIPS agreement.<sup>1084</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Australia launched preliminary negotiations with the United Kingdom for an Australia-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1085</sup> Among Australia’s stated objectives include

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<sup>1077</sup> WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_30sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1078</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1079</sup> Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/trdev\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1080</sup> Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/trdev\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1081</sup> Council approves a multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement to solve trade disputes, Council of the EU (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/council-approves-a-multi-party-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement-to-solve-trade-disputes/>

<sup>1082</sup> Council approves a multi-party interim appeal arbitration arrangement to solve trade disputes, Council of the EU (Brussels) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/04/15/council-approves-a-multi-party-interim-appeal-arbitration-arrangement-to-solve-trade-disputes/>

<sup>1083</sup> Appellate Body issues reports regarding tobacco plain packaging requirements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/435\\_441abr\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/435_441abr_e.htm)

<sup>1084</sup> Appellate Body issues reports regarding tobacco plain packaging requirements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 9 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/435\\_441abr\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/435_441abr_e.htm)

<sup>1085</sup> Australia-UK FTA negotiating aims and approach, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aukfta/negotiating-aims-and-approach>

the establishment of a best-practice state-to-state dispute settlement mechanism with the United Kingdom.<sup>1086</sup>

On 27 August 2020, Australia participated in a joint media statement during Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations along with ministers from the China, South Korea, Japan, New Zealand, and the members of ASEAN, reaffirming the region's support for an open, rules-based multilateral trading system, and reporting on progress on finalizing RCEP negotiations.<sup>1087</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Australia presented a submission on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session, on behalf of the Cairns Group of agricultural exporting members, which include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Indonesia, and South Africa.<sup>1088</sup> The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures...[and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”<sup>1089</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1090</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address “issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route.”<sup>1091</sup>

Australia has participated in addressing problems with the existing dispute settlement system, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work by accounting for recent technological developments.

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<sup>1086</sup> Australia-UK FTA negotiating aims and approach, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/trade/agreements/negotiations/aukfta/negotiating-aims-and-approach>

<sup>1087</sup> Joint Media Statement of the 8th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Ministerial Meeting, ASEAN (Jakarta) 27 Aug 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://asean.org/joint-media-statement-8th-regional-comprehensive-economic-partnership-rcep-ministerial-meeting/>

<sup>1088</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1089</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1090</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1091</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)



Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tony Xun*

**Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 7 October 2019, Brazil presented a proposal to the WTO with recommendations for guidelines and best practices of the use of digital technologies and information and communication technologies.<sup>1092</sup> The goal is to demonstrate Brazil’s commitment to keeping the WTO relevant to the nature of 21st-century trade.<sup>1093</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Brazil was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1094</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1095</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the WTO released a report stating that Brazil was in full compliance with the recommendations and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body in cases filed by the European Union and Japan, both of which concerned taxation of trade.<sup>1096</sup> The implementation was completed by 31 December 2019.<sup>1097</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Brazil was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1098</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a

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<sup>1092</sup> Electronic Commerce in the World Trade Organization- Joint Note of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Brasilia) 11 October 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-BR/notas-a-imprensa/20978-comercio-eletronico-na-organizacao-mundial-do-comercio-nota-conjunta-dos-ministerios-das-relacoes-exterores-e-da-economia>

<sup>1093</sup> Electronic Commerce in the World Trade Organization- Joint Note of Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Economy, Ministry of Foreign Relations (Brasilia) 11 October 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/pt-BR/notas-a-imprensa/20978-comercio-eletronico-na-organizacao-mundial-do-comercio-nota-conjunta-dos-ministerios-das-relacoes-exterores-e-da-economia>

<sup>1094</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1095</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1096</sup> Brazil — Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Brazil — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/cases\\_e/ds472\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds472_e.htm)

<sup>1097</sup> Brazil — Certain Measures Concerning Taxation and Charges — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Brazil — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/cases\\_e/ds472\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds472_e.htm)

<sup>1098</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1099</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the WTO Committee on Government Procurement received Brazil's request to begin negotiations to join the Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).<sup>1100</sup> The GPA is a plurilateral WTO agreement which is binding only for members who have joined.<sup>1101</sup> The GPA promotes and regulates the procurement of trade.<sup>1102</sup>

On 15 June 2020, Brazil, as a part of the Ottawa Group,<sup>1103</sup> released a statement with six action items as suggestions to the WTO, including "Transparency and Withdrawal of Trade-Restrictive Measures" and "Keeping Open and Predictable Trade in Agricultural and Agri-Food Products."<sup>1104</sup> The statement is a substantive proposal that is designed to reflect the circumstances surrounding COVID-19.<sup>1105</sup>

On 4 September 2020, China along with its BRICS counterparts, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.<sup>1106</sup> The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."<sup>1107</sup> The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."<sup>1108</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address "issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied

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<sup>1099</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1100</sup> Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/gpro\\_19may20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm)

<sup>1101</sup> Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/gpro\\_19may20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm)

<sup>1102</sup> Brazil submits application to join government procurement pact, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/gpro\\_19may20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/gpro_19may20_e.htm)

<sup>1103</sup> Ottawa Group and WTO Reform, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/05/ottawa-group-and-wto-reform.html>

<sup>1104</sup> June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>1105</sup> June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations\\_relations\\_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations_relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>1106</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1107</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1108</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route.”<sup>1109</sup>

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Brazil took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.<sup>1110</sup> The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures...[and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”<sup>1111</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1112</sup>

Brazil has fully complied with this commitment through being a signatory to a proposal to the current Appellate Board impasse; following the recommendations of and rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) to reinforce the existing work of the WTO; and presented a proposal to the WTO with recommendations for guidelines and best practices of the use of digital technologies and ICT, actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joy Fan*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 25 August 2019, Canada formalized an agreement with the European Union to set up a substitute appeals body for trade disputes between each other.<sup>1113</sup> Canada and the EU are working around the

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<sup>1109</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1110</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1111</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1112</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1113</sup> Canada and Europe make deal to work around blocked World Trade Organization, CBC (Montreal) 25 July 2019.

Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-europe-world-trade-organization-1.5225331>

United States' refusal to allow new appointments in WTO's Appellate Body by agreeing to take appeals to three-member panels made up of people who used to sit on the WTO's Appellate Body.<sup>1114</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Canada introduced a concept paper at the WTO titled "Preventing the Use of Personal Information from being used for the Discrimination or Persecution of Natural Persons."<sup>1115</sup> It aims to protect personal information from being used for purposes of discrimination or persecution in digital trade.<sup>1116</sup> This initiative was intended to facilitate improved economic opportunities in the digital trading environment and seek the confidence of consumers in the digital economy.<sup>1117</sup>

On 12 September 2019, Canada filed a WTO dispute complaint against China's restriction on canola seed imports.<sup>1118</sup> The Canadian government claims that the enhanced inspections of imports and the suspension of imports by two Canadian companies violate China's trade obligations.<sup>1119</sup>

On 30 September 2019, Canada attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session. Alongside Australia, Mexico, New Zealand and Switzerland, Canada proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal, cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services. The proposal states that these actions would "reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives."<sup>1120</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Canada signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.<sup>1121</sup> The trade agreement is meant to improve the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.<sup>1122</sup>

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<sup>1114</sup> Canada and Europe make deal to work around blocked World Trade Organization, CBC (Montreal) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 20 February 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/canada-europe-world-trade-organization-1.5225331>

<sup>1115</sup> WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

<sup>1116</sup> WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access date: February 23, 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

<sup>1117</sup> WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Electronic Commerce, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Access Date: February 23, 2020. <https://www.international.gc.ca/trade-agreements-accords-commerciaux/topics-domaines/other-autre/statement-concept-ecom-declaration-reflexion-09.aspx?lang=eng>

<sup>1118</sup> Canada files WTO dispute complaint against Chinese import restrictions on canola seed, WTO (Geneva) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/ds589rfc\\_12sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds589rfc_12sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1119</sup> Canada files WTO dispute complaint against Chinese import restrictions on canola seed, WTO (Geneva) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/ds589rfc\\_12sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds589rfc_12sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1120</sup> WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_30sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1121</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

<sup>1122</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

On 16 January 2020, Canada was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1123</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1124</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Canada and 16 other countries agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1125</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1126</sup>

On 25 March 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng signed a Joint Ministerial statement with Australia and three other nations joining New Zealand and Singapore in affirming supply chain connectivity amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1127</sup> The signatories committed to ensuring the openness of trade lines and addressing trade disruptions, especially of crucial medical supplies.<sup>1128</sup>

On 27 March 2020, Canada and 15 other members of the WTO have decided to put into place a Multi-party Interim Agreement (MPIA) for allowing appeals of panel reports in trade disputes.<sup>1129</sup> The MPIA is intended to restore access to a binding dispute settlement system between participating countries until the WTO Appellate Body is fully functional.<sup>1130</sup>

On 15 June 2020, Canada, along with the 12 other Ottawa Group members, released a statement titled “Focusing Action on Covid-19.”<sup>1131</sup> Among other action items, the Ottawa group committed to transparency and withdrawal of trade-restrictive measures and keeping open and predictable trade in agricultural products.<sup>1132</sup> Additionally, Canada reaffirmed its commitment to WTO reform,

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<sup>1123</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1124</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1125</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1126</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1127</sup> Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/trdev\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1128</sup> Report on G20 Trade Measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/trdev\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/trdev_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1129</sup> Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through WTO, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>

<sup>1130</sup> Statement on Multi-party Interim Arrangement for appealing trade disputes through WTO, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/03/statement-on-multi-party-interim-arrangement-for-appealing-trade-disputes-through-wto.html>

<sup>1131</sup> June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>1132</sup> June 2020 Statement of the Ottawa Group: Focusing Action on Covid-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international\\_relations-relations\\_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng](https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/wto-omc/2019-06-covid-19.aspx?lang=eng)

including efforts towards a long-lasting solution towards dispute settlement and conclusion of negotiations on harmful fishing subsidies.<sup>1133</sup>

On 3 August 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng issued a statement on the conclusion of the process to select arbitrators for the MPIA, noting that upon the appointment of arbitrators, the MPIA became fully operational and reaffirming Canada's commitment to a permanent solution to the Appellate Body's impasse.<sup>1134</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint submission from Australia, Brazil and Canada at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session to address "issues that arise with sudden increases in applied tariffs by members, which create uncertainty for exporters and additional costs for imports. The objective is to compile an inventory of current practices when an applied tariff changes, share with members the potential issues that arise from change in applied tariffs, and propose options to enhance predictability in applied tariffs and management of shipments en route."<sup>1135</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Canada presented a joint proposal from Canada, Norway and Switzerland at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. The proposal called for "all members that have not yet done so to ensure that the commitment to eliminate export subsidies is reflected in their WTO schedules of commitments no later than June or December 2021...and reaffirms Member's commitment to continue to the negotiations" on the topic of export competition.<sup>1136</sup>

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Canada took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.<sup>1137</sup> The submission "calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading

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<sup>1133</sup> Minister Ng concludes successful Canada-led Ottawa Group meeting on World Trade Organization reform and COVID-19, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/05/ottawa-group-and-wto-reform.html>

<sup>1134</sup> Statement from Minister Ng on final arbitrator candidates of WTO Multi-party Interim Arrangement, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 8 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/08/statement-from-minister-ng-on-final-arbitrator-candidates-of-wto-multi-party-interim-arrangement.html>

<sup>1135</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1136</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1137</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

system.”<sup>1138</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1139</sup>

Canada has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, and improving the WTO’s negotiating work regarding digital trade, as well as strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies in the evidence above.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Tony Xun*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 21 August 2019, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with representatives from Korea and Japan and offered to mediate the trade conflict between the two countries.<sup>1140</sup> By doing so, China aims to advance negotiations on a trilateral trade agreement between the three countries.<sup>1141</sup>

On 6 November 2019, China held an informal WTO Ministerial Meeting in Shanghai, presided over by Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan.<sup>1142</sup> The aim of the meeting was for all parties to share views on “firmly [supporting] the multilateral trading system, resolutely oppose unilateralism and protectionism, actively participate in the necessary reform of the WTO, safeguard the core values of the WTO, promote the success of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference, and enhance the WTO’s confidence.”<sup>1143</sup>

On 13 December 2019, China and the United States agreed to the contents of a phase-one trade agreement.<sup>1144</sup> This agreement addresses rising tariffs and contains provisions on “intellectual property rights, technology transfer, food and agricultural products, financial services, exchange rate

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<sup>1138</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1139</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1140</sup> Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi offers to help Japan and South Korea to settle trade dispute, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3023738/chinese-foreign-minister-wang-yi-urges-japan-and-south-korea>

<sup>1141</sup> Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi offers to help Japan and South Korea to settle trade dispute, South China Morning Post (Hong Kong) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3023738/chinese-foreign-minister-wang-yi-urges-japan-and-south-korea>

<sup>1142</sup> Informal WTO ministerial meeting held in Shanghai successfully, Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201911/20191102913782.shtml>

<sup>1143</sup> Informal WTO ministerial meeting held in Shanghai successfully, Ministry of Commerce People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/article/newsrelease/significantnews/201911/20191102913782.shtml>

<sup>1144</sup> China, US agree on text of phase one trade deal, The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content\\_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html)

and transparency, trade expansion, bilateral assessment and dispute settlement, and the final terms” to promote and improve the two nations’ economic and trade relations and global stability.<sup>1145</sup>

On 15 January 2020, Vice-Premier of China Liu He signed the phase-one trade deal alongside United States President Donald Trump, ending a months-long “trade war” between the two nations.<sup>1146</sup> The trade deal aims to advance bilateral trade and economic development between the two countries and promotes mutual cooperation to serve the interests of consumers and producers globally.<sup>1147</sup>

On 16 January 2020, China was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1148</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1149</sup>

On 24 January 2020, China was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1150</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1151</sup>

On 18 February 2020, China’s Ministry of Commerce issued the “Circular on Stabilizing Foreign Trade and Investment and Stimulating Consumption in Response to the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia,” to aid in stimulating foreign trade during the coronavirus outbreak.<sup>1152</sup> It encourages governments to “communicate closely with foreign investors, accelerate their approvals for import and export licensing, and help them resume operations,” and emphasizes the need for e-commerce service development for foreign trade.<sup>1153</sup>

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<sup>1145</sup> China, US agree on text of phase one trade deal, The People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content\\_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201912/13/content_WS5df3b07ec6d0bcf8c4c18d04.html)

<sup>1146</sup> China-US phase one trade deal has bearing on world peace, prosperity, says vice-premier, The Republic of China (Beijing) 16 Jan 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content\\_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html)

<sup>1147</sup> China-US phase one trade deal has bearing on world peace, prosperity, says vice-premier, The Republic of China (Beijing) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content\\_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/liuhe/202001/16/content_WS5e1fc831c6d0891feec0252e.html)

<sup>1148</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1149</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1150</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1151</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1152</sup> Support for Foreign-Invested Enterprises in China to Cope With Coronavirus, Reach Further 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eastwestbank.com/ReachFurther/en/News/Article/Support-for-Foreign-Invested-Enterprises-in-China-to-Cope-with-Coronavirus>

<sup>1153</sup> Support for Foreign-Invested Enterprises in China to Cope With Coronavirus, Reach Further 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eastwestbank.com/ReachFurther/en/News/Article/Support-for-Foreign-Invested-Enterprises-in-China-to-Cope-with-Coronavirus>



On 14 April 2020, China held the China Latin America (Mexico) international trade exhibition, sponsored by the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade.<sup>1154</sup> The 15-day online trade fair aims to promote trade cooperation between China and Latin America through digital negotiation on a variety of capital and consumer goods.<sup>1155</sup> Five to eight more exhibitions are to be held to provide further advancement for foreign trade cooperation.<sup>1156</sup>

On 22 July 2020, General Administrations of Customs official Dang Yingjie announced that China will introduce guidelines to improve the business environment for foreign trade.<sup>1157</sup> The guidelines aim to lower fees and import and export costs and streamline the customs clearance process to reduce time.<sup>1158</sup>

On 12 August, 2020, the General Office of the State Council released a document containing 15 new measures to further stabilize foreign trade and support foreign trade companies, with emphasis on aid for small businesses and labour-intensive businesses.<sup>1159</sup> The measures further aim to ease logistical and financial difficulties foreign trade firms are facing amid border closures.<sup>1160</sup>

On 4 September 2020, China along with its BRICS counterparts, India, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.<sup>1161</sup> The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."<sup>1162</sup> The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."<sup>1163</sup>

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<sup>1154</sup> China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content\\_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html)

<sup>1155</sup> China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content\\_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html)

<sup>1156</sup> China holds online trade fair to boost cooperation with Latin America, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content\\_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/internationalexchanges/202004/14/content_WS5e959d12c6d0c201c2cc0e5d.html)

<sup>1157</sup> Chinese customs to boost business environment for foreign trade, investment, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content\\_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html)

<sup>1158</sup> Chinese customs to boost business environment for foreign trade, investment, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content\\_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/pressbriefings/202007/22/content_WS5f1831d4c6d029c1c26367bf.html)

<sup>1159</sup> Cabinet pledge support for foreign trade, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content\\_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html)

<sup>1160</sup> Cabinet pledge support for foreign trade, The People's Republic of China (Beijing) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content\\_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202008/26/content_WS5f45af3ec6d0f7257693b06d.html)

<sup>1161</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1162</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1163</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

China has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Vanessa Li*

**France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 6 November 2019, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Emmanuel Macron met to discuss continued bilateral cooperation that will have positive global effects.<sup>1164</sup> During the meeting, they reaffirmed the need for a coordinated stance on the reform of the WTO in order to promote free trade.<sup>1165</sup> Both countries stressed the necessity to tackle climate change, as well as strengthening relations in the agricultural and energy sector.<sup>1166</sup>

On 20 January 2020, United States President Donald Trump and French President Emmanuel Macron announced a truce to a digital tax dispute in which the US administration threatened tariff retaliation on French goods.<sup>1167</sup> Both countries stressed the importance of avoiding tariff escalation for the betterment of both nations.<sup>1168</sup> This truce follows an 8 December 2019 statement by Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire that France was willing to launch a WTO dispute over proposed US retaliatory tariffs.<sup>1169</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the United States and France agreed to a continued truce on the digital services tax until the end of the calendar year.<sup>1170</sup> This is to allow “broader tax reforms” to take place through the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, that should result in equitable taxation and no further filings of WTO disputes on potential US tariffs.<sup>1171</sup>

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<sup>1164</sup> Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1714263.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml)

<sup>1165</sup> Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1714263.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml)

<sup>1166</sup> Li Keqiang Meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1714263.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1714263.shtml)

<sup>1167</sup> France and U.S. Move Toward Temporary Truce in Trade War, New York Times (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/business/france-US-digital-tax.html>

<sup>1168</sup> France and U.S. Move Toward Temporary Truce in Trade War, New York Times (Paris) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/business/france-US-digital-tax.html>

<sup>1169</sup> France willing to take Trump to WTO over proposed tariffs, EuroNews (Paris) 8 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.euronews.com/2019/12/08/france-willing-to-take-trump-to-wto-over-proposed-tariffs>

<sup>1170</sup> USTR vows to push for trade deals with Britain, EU; seeks reforms at WTO, Reuters (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade/ustr-vows-to-push-for-trade-deals-with-britain-eu-seeks-reforms-at-wto-idUSKCN20M3BN>

<sup>1171</sup> USTR vows to push for trade deals with Britain, EU; seeks reforms at WTO, Reuters (Washington) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade/ustr-vows-to-push-for-trade-deals-with-britain-eu-seeks-reforms-at-wto-idUSKCN20M3BN>

On 24 July 2020, European plane maker Airbus agreed with France to change some “financial support agreements” in order to end the ongoing trade dispute with the US on French goods.<sup>1172</sup> This will bring both Airbus and France into “full compliance” with WTO guidelines as well as remove the US justification for the imposition of further tariffs.<sup>1173</sup>

On 29 August 2020, Wang Yi, the State Councillor and Foreign Minister of China, met with the French President’s Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne in Paris.<sup>1174</sup> The two committed to pushing “strategic cooperation” in the post pandemic era to greater improve EU-China relations in areas such as free trade, the digital economy, and climate change, with a specific focus on upholding and strengthening international systems, namely the World Trade Organization.<sup>1175</sup>

France has partially complied with this commitment through strong actions relating to the component of upholding WTO regulations, and partial actions relating to the component of WTO reform and ensuring future global trade has both corporate and societal interests. However, France has not taken strong enough action on the component of appointments to the WTO’s Appellate Body.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Khalil Khalifa*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 1 October 2019, German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted a meeting in Berlin attended by WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo to discuss ways to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation to improve prospects for inclusive and sustainable growth.<sup>1176</sup> The heads of the International Labour Organization (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank also attended the gathering.<sup>1177</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Germany announced that it is aiming to find a permanent solution for the composition of the WTO’s Appellate Body.<sup>1178</sup> The Appellate Body needs a minimum of three

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<sup>1172</sup> Airbus Looks to End Trade Dispute With U.S. by Forgoing Some Government Support, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/airbus-agrees-to-changes-in-government-support-in-effort-to-avoid-u-s-tariffs-11595580915>

<sup>1173</sup> Airbus Looks to End Trade Dispute With U.S. by Forgoing Some Government Support, The Wall Street Journal (New York) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/airbus-agrees-to-changes-in-government-support-in-effort-to-avoid-u-s-tariffs-11595580915>

<sup>1174</sup> Wang Yi Meets with French President's Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1810950.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1810950.shtml)

<sup>1175</sup> Wang Yi Meets with French President's Foreign Policy Advisor Emmanuel Bonne, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 29 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. [https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa\\_eng/zxxx\\_662805/t1810950.shtml](https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1810950.shtml)

<sup>1176</sup> Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss challenges of multilateralism, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 1 October 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dgra\\_01oct19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_01oct19_e.htm)

<sup>1177</sup> Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss challenges of multilateralism, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 1 October 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dgra\\_01oct19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dgra_01oct19_e.htm)

<sup>1178</sup> Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

judges to function but the terms of two of the three remaining members of the appeals panel expired on Tuesday without replacements due to a blocking strategy by the United States.<sup>1179</sup> A foreign ministry spokeswoman had earlier said Germany would work with the European Union to devise a temporary solution and she hoped a permanent solution could be found before a WTO ministerial conference in June.<sup>1180</sup>

On 13 December 2019, Germany gave EUR1 million to the WTO's Doha Development Agenda Global Trust Fund in order to help developing countries enhance their negotiating skillset.<sup>1181</sup> The money will be used to help developing and least-developed countries implement WTO agreements and to increase their trade negotiating skills.<sup>1182</sup>

On 17 December 2019, Germany gave EUR1.3 million to the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) for 2020 to help spur trade growth across the world's poorest countries.<sup>1183</sup> An agreement was signed on 17 December 2019 at the WTO by Germany's Deputy Permanent Representative to the WTO, Hans-Peter Jugel, and William Axelsson, Deputy Director of the United Nations Office for Project Services, which manages the EIF's Trust Fund.<sup>1184</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Chancellor Merkel hosted a virtual meeting with the participation of the WTO Director-General Roberto Azevêdo, to look at the health, economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic along with the international policy response. The heads of the ILO, IMF, OECD and World Bank also attended the gathering.<sup>1185</sup>

On 24 June 2020, German Minister for the Economy Peter Altmaier made a verbal declaration stating that Germany welcome a US-China WTO-based trade deal. During this press conference, he emphasized this agreement as an "important signal that would give enormous support to the global economy."<sup>1186</sup>

On 31 July 2020, Germany donated EUR150,000 (approximately CHF160,000) in 2020 to help developing countries and least-developed countries comply with international food safety, animal and plant health standards, with the aim of increasing their access to agricultural markets. The donation is to the Standards and Trade Development Facility, a global partnership that helps developing

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<sup>1179</sup> Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

<sup>1180</sup> Germany wants solution for WTO appeals panel by June: spokeswoman, Thomson Reuters (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-germany/germany-wants-to-find-solution-on-wto-appellate-body-by-june-spokeswoman-idUSKBN1YF1N0>

<sup>1181</sup> Germany gives EUR 1 million to help developing countries enhance negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres19\\_e/pr846\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres19_e/pr846_e.htm)

<sup>1182</sup> Germany gives EUR 1 million to help developing countries enhance negotiating skill-set, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 13 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres19\\_e/pr846\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres19_e/pr846_e.htm)

<sup>1183</sup> Germany commits EUR 1.3 million to support trade initiatives in world's poorest countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/if\\_17dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/if_17dec19_e.htm)

<sup>1184</sup> Germany commits EUR 1.3 million to support trade initiatives in world's poorest countries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 December 2019. Access Date: February 15, 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/if\\_17dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/if_17dec19_e.htm)

<sup>1185</sup> Chancellor Merkel, DG Azevêdo and other agency heads discuss COVID-19 pandemic, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020 [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dgra\\_20may20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgra_20may20_e.htm)

<sup>1186</sup> Germany would welcome US-China WTO-based trade deal: minister, Reuters (London) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-germany-politics-economy-altmaier-tra/germany-would-welcome-us-china-wto-based-trade-deal-minister-idUSKBN23V23C>

countries improve food safety, animal and plant health capacity and meet sanitary and phytosanitary requirements for trade, based on international standards.<sup>1187</sup>

Germany has taken actions to resolve the current Appellate Board impasse with outlined proposals, in partnership with the European Union, to resolve this institutional gridlock. Germany also worked to reinforce the existing work of the WTO with its significant contribution to the EIF and to actively participate in the negotiations surrounding WTO reform through its participation at several panels.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Daniel Scarpitti and Alexandre Nouailles*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 26 July 2019, a majority of WTO members endorsed the joint proposal by India, South Africa and seven other countries for reforming the WTO.<sup>1188</sup> The proposal, based on a concept paper by India, called for the resolution of the impasse over appointments to the Appellate Body.<sup>1189</sup> Further, it called for prohibiting unilateral trade measures and supported “development-centric” changes to strengthen the organization.<sup>1190</sup> The proponents of the plan claimed that it would “bring balance to the on-going discussions on WTO reform by reaffirming the importance of development to the work of this organization.”<sup>1191</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the Argentine-India Business Forum was held, where the Secretary for International Economic Relations of the Foreign Ministry, Secretary of Foreign Trade, the President of the Argentine Investment and Trade Promotion Agency, the Indian Ambassador to Argentina and the Argentine Ambassador to India were present.<sup>1192</sup> Meetings were held between Argentinian and

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<sup>1187</sup> Germany gives EUR 150,000 to enhance developing countries’ participation in farm trade, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 2 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr861\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr861_e.htm)

<sup>1188</sup> India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

<sup>1189</sup> India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

<sup>1190</sup> India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

<sup>1191</sup> India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

<sup>1192</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

Indian companies to discuss potential joint business initiatives.<sup>1193</sup> The forum discussed the economic bilateral relationship between the two members and its challenges.<sup>1194</sup>

On 16 January 2020, India was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1195</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1196</sup>

On 28 January 2020, India called for the elimination of trade distorting subsidies on agriculture during a ministerial meeting in Davos.<sup>1197</sup> Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal spoke on several topics including the fact that the least-developed countries have not achieved a proportionate share of global trade and the need for developing countries to have policy flexibility in order to better integrate into global markets.<sup>1198</sup>

On 25 February 2020, India and the United States issued joint statements declaring their intent to pursue a major bilateral trade deal.<sup>1199</sup> Prime Minister Narendra Modi stated that “our commerce ministers have had positive talks on trade. Both of us have decided that our teams should give legal shape to these trade talks.”<sup>1200</sup>

On 5 March 2020, India blocked the European Union’s request for the creation of a WTO dispute panel to rule on Indian tariffs on information technology and communications goods.<sup>1201</sup> The EU suggests that the import duties of up to 20 per cent are contrary to WTO free trade commitments.<sup>1202</sup>

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<sup>1193</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1194</sup> Business Forum with India to foster trade and investments, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/business-forum-india-foster-trade-and-investments>

<sup>1195</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1196</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1197</sup> India to seek elimination of trade-distorting subsidies on agriculture in WTO, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 28 January 2020. Access date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jan/28/india-to-see-elimination-of-trade-distorting-subsidies-on-agriculture-in-wto-2095806.html>

<sup>1198</sup> India to seek elimination of trade-distorting subsidies on agriculture in WTO, The Indian Express (New Delhi) 28 January 2020. Access date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/jan/28/india-to-see-elimination-of-trade-distorting-subsidies-on-agriculture-in-wto-2095806.html>

<sup>1199</sup> Modi-Trump talks: India, US negotiation on big trade deal, Live Mint (New Delhi) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/modi-trump-talks-india-us-negotiations-on-big-trade-deal-soon-11582618666817.html>

<sup>1200</sup> Modi-Trump talks: India, US negotiation on big trade deal, Live Mint (New Delhi) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/modi-trump-talks-india-us-negotiations-on-big-trade-deal-soon-11582618666817.html>

<sup>1201</sup> India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

<sup>1202</sup> India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

The EU is expected to request a second time for a dispute panel which India will be unlikely to be able to block.<sup>1203</sup>

On 21 July 2020, India supported WTO negotiations to curb fisheries subsidies.<sup>1204</sup> India's representative Brajendra Navnit sought greater contribution from members that provide large subsidies but insisted that exemptions be provided for small fishers who operate in exclusive economic zones.<sup>1205</sup> Furthermore, in reference to the appellate body, Brajendra Navnit stressed India was a major user of the dispute settlement system and its resolution deserved the utmost priority.<sup>1206</sup>

On 29 July, the dispute settlement body of the WTO accepted the request of Chinese Taipei and Japan for setting up panels in an tariff case on information and communications technologies (ICT) against India.<sup>1207</sup> The panel will determine whether India's custom duties on imports of certain ICT products such as mobile phones, telephone parts, and machines for reception infringe WTO norms.<sup>1208</sup> The allegations state that India infringed on the committed zero percent bound tariffs by imposing import duties on these products.<sup>1209</sup> India argues that these ICT products are part of WTO's Information Technology Products (ITA-2) agreement which India was never a part of.<sup>1210</sup>

On 4 September 2020, India along with its BRICS counterparts, China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.<sup>1211</sup> The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."<sup>1212</sup> The Indian Union External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar participated in a BRICS virtual meeting and together the representatives declared that the current circumstances dictate a "powerful reminder of the

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<sup>1203</sup> India blocks first request by EU at WTO for dispute panel on ICT import duties, The Hindu Business Line (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-blocks-first-request-by-eu-at-wto-for-dispute-panel-on-ict-import-duties/article30992950.ece>

<sup>1204</sup> India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

<sup>1205</sup> India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

<sup>1206</sup> India supports early conclusion of fisheries pact at WTO with necessary exemptions, The Hindu Business Line (Chennai) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-supports-early-conclusion-of-fisheries-pact-at-wto-with-necessary-exemptions/article32148879.ece#>

<sup>1207</sup> ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

<sup>1208</sup> ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

<sup>1209</sup> ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

<sup>1210</sup> ICT tariff case: WTO to set up dispute panels against India on request of Chinese Taipei, Japan, Financial Express 29 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/ict-tariff-case-wto-to-set-up-dispute-panels-against-india-on-request-of-chinese-taipei-japan/2039176/>

<sup>1211</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1212</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

imperative to strengthen cooperation between states” and “must be addressed through reinvigorated diplomacy, strengthened and reformed multilateral systems.”<sup>1213</sup> Furthermore, the nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They “stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System.”<sup>1214</sup>

India has acted in participating in addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, reinforcing the existing work of the WTO, and actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Srijan Sabu*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 14 November 2019, Indonesia co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Mexico, Korea, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.<sup>1215</sup> The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”<sup>1216</sup>

On 16 December 2019, Indonesia filed a complaint against the European Union, regarding an inconsistency with the WTO’s Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade, the 1994 General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures.<sup>1217</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Indonesia reaffirmed its commitment to the rulings of the Dispute Settlement Body and implementations of appropriate changes following a successful US complaint regarding restrictions on the importation of horticultural and animal products.<sup>1218</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Indonesia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1219</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1220</sup>

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<sup>1213</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1214</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1215</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1216</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1217</sup> European Union — Certain Measures concerning Palm Oil and Oil Palm Crop-Based Biofuels — Request for consultations by Indonesia, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/cases\\_e/ds593\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds593_e.htm)

<sup>1218</sup> Indonesia — Importation of Horticultural Products, Animals and Animal Products — Status report regarding implementation of the DSB recommendations and rulings by Indonesia — Addendum, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/cases\\_e/ds478\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds478_e.htm)



On 30 January 2020, Indonesia represented itself and the other countries of the Group of 33 on a new submission to the Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) requesting that the WTO work together to reach an agreement to address inequalities from the Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture.<sup>1221</sup> The goal of the mechanism is to create an equitable playing field for agricultural producers in developing countries.<sup>1222</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the WTO's Committee on Safeguards was notified by Indonesia of a safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings that it had begun two days prior.<sup>1223</sup> The country has followed the guidelines by the WTO for safeguard investigations in this matter.<sup>1224</sup>

On 20-21 July 2020, Indonesia participated in the second round of discussions surrounding the UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review.<sup>1225</sup> The review focuses on how to improve trade between the two countries.<sup>1226</sup>

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, Indonesia took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.<sup>1227</sup> The submission "calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading

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<sup>1219</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1220</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1221</sup> Committee on Agriculture — Special Session — Reaffirming multilateralism and development for MC12: Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM), World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S006-1.aspx?Id=260757&IsNotification=False](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S006-1.aspx?Id=260757&IsNotification=False)

<sup>1222</sup> Chair confident of making progress on agriculture talks ahead of Ministerial Conference, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 09 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agri\\_31jan20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agri_31jan20_e.htm)

<sup>1223</sup> Indonesia launches safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/safe\\_idn\\_12jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/safe_idn_12jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1224</sup> Indonesia launches safeguard investigation on carpets and other textile floor coverings, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/safe\\_idn\\_12jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/safe_idn_12jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1225</sup> UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

<sup>1226</sup> UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

<sup>1227</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

system.”<sup>1228</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1229</sup>

Indonesia has fully complied with this commitment through being a signatory to a proposal to the current Appellate Board impasse; following due process and using the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) for complaints to reinforce the existing work of the WTO; and represented itself and the other countries of the Group of 33 on a new submission to the SSM to improve address inequalities from the Uruguay Round Articles of Agreement, actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Joy Fan*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 16 October 2019, United States President Donald Trump and Italian President Sergio Mattarella announced their intention to cooperate on trade issues and avoid Italian retaliatory tariffs for US tariffs that was cleared by the WTO on Italian goods.<sup>1230</sup> Both countries discussed reworking Italy’s European Union barriers to avoid increasing tariffs and promote unrestricted and multilateral trade.<sup>1231</sup>

On 23 November 2019, foreign ministers from the G20, including Italy’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio, agreed on the “urgent” need to reform the WTO.<sup>1232</sup> In order to address the key issues of the WTO, Sergio Mattarella and other G20 leaders proposed and agreed to promoting free trade to combat the downside risks facing the global economy.<sup>1233</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Undersecretary of State Ivan Scalfarotto met with French Minister of State attached to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne to discuss WTO

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<sup>1228</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1229</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1230</sup> Trump upbeat on trade talks with EU, hints at reprieve for some duties on Italian products, Reuters (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-italy/trump-upbeat-on-trade-talks-with-eu-hints-at-reprieve-for-some-duties-on-italian-products-idUSKBN1WV217>

<sup>1231</sup> Trump upbeat on trade talks with EU, hints at reprieve for some duties on Italian products, Reuters (Washington) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-italy/trump-upbeat-on-trade-talks-with-eu-hints-at-reprieve-for-some-duties-on-italian-products-idUSKBN1WV217>

<sup>1232</sup> G-20 foreign ministers agree WTO reforms "urgent" amid trade war, Kyodo (Nagoya) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/G-20-foreign-ministers-agree-WTO-reforms-urgent-amid-trade-war>

<sup>1233</sup> G-20 foreign ministers agree WTO reforms "urgent" amid trade war, Kyodo (Nagoya) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/G-20-foreign-ministers-agree-WTO-reforms-urgent-amid-trade-war>

reform and European Union trade interests.<sup>1234</sup> The aim is to solidify relations and increase cooperation with an eye towards the WTO Ministerial Conference in June.<sup>1235</sup>

Italy has strengthened the work of the WTO and improved the organization's negotiating work through bilateral agreements with the United States and in participating in reform discussion within the G20. However, it has not taken action to address the dispute settlement system.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Khalil Khalifa*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 11 December 2019, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshi Kajiyama and Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi issued statements on the WTO Appellate Body and WTO reform.<sup>1236</sup> They emphasize Japan's contributions to initiatives of WTO reform, including co-chairing negotiations around updating WTO's regulations on the digital economy, and their promotion of the “Osaka Track” launched at the G20 Osaka Summit.<sup>1237</sup> Furthermore, they stress the importance of resolving the current impasse over appointments to the WTO's Appellate Body, referencing their April 2019 proposal on the subject.<sup>1238</sup>

On 1 January 2020, a trade deal between the United States and Japan went into effect to reduce or eliminate tariffs on USD7.2 billion of American exports and lowering tariffs on Japanese industrial products.<sup>1239</sup> Japan and the United States plan to enter into another round of negotiations to further increase free trade between the two countries.<sup>1240</sup>

On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are “insufficient to tackle market and trade

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<sup>1234</sup> Italy — Meeting between Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and his Italian counterpart, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/italy/events/article/italy-meeting-between-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-and-his-italian-counterpart-paris>

<sup>1235</sup> Italy — Meeting between Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne and his Italian counterpart, France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (Paris) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/italy/events/article/italy-meeting-between-jean-baptiste-lemoyne-and-his-italian-counterpart-paris>

<sup>1236</sup> Statement by Minister Kajiyama on the WTO Appellate Body, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/speeches/ministers\\_statements/2019/20191211\\_01.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/speeches/ministers_statements/2019/20191211_01.html)

<sup>1237</sup> Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000140.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html)

<sup>1238</sup> Paralysis of the WTO's Appellate Body and WTO Reform (Statement by Foreign Minister MOTEGI Toshimitsu), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000140.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000140.html)

<sup>1239</sup> U.S. to get greater access to Japan agriculture market as trade deal takes effect, The Japan Times (New York) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/31/business/us-japan-trade-deal/#.Xj4V3BNKj6Y>

<sup>1240</sup> U.S. to get greater access to Japan agriculture market as trade deal takes effect, The Japan Times (New York) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/31/business/us-japan-trade-deal/#.Xj4V3BNKj6Y>

distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions.”<sup>1241</sup> They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.<sup>1242</sup>

On 1 February 2020, Japan and the European Union entered into an Economic Partnership Agreement.<sup>1243</sup> The trade agreement “removes tariffs and other trade barriers and creates a platform to cooperate in order to prevent obstacles to trade, and helps [them] shape global trade rules in line with [their] high standards and shared values, and sends a powerful signal that two of the world’s biggest economies reject protectionism.”<sup>1244</sup>

On 7 and 10 February 2020, Japan launched two complaints at the WTO regarding the alleged illegal funding of commercial shipbuilders by Korea.<sup>1245,1246</sup>

On 11 March 2020, trade talks between Japan and Korea concerned with their trade dispute concluded without reaching a deal.<sup>1247</sup> Korea called for Japan to “return its trade regulations to the levels before July” 2019, in response to its augmentation of export controls through hiring 25 per cent more staff for the Korean Security Agency of Trade and Industry.<sup>1248</sup> Both Japan and Korea suspended visa-waivers between the two countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1249</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Japan requested that the WTO establish a panel on India’s increase in tariffs on products related to information and communications technologies (ICT) after bilateral consultations with India did not result in the removal of the tariffs.<sup>1250</sup> India had previously agreed to zero tariffs but has increased tariffs on ICT products six times between 2014 and 2019.<sup>1251</sup>

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<sup>1241</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

<sup>1242</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

<sup>1243</sup> EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

<sup>1244</sup> EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, European Commission (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-japan-economic-partnership-agreement/>

<sup>1245</sup> Japan’s WTO petition over South Korea shipbuilding signals renewed tensions, The Japan Times (Geneva) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/03/business/japan-wto-south-korean-shipbuilding/#.Xj4bBhNKj6Y>

<sup>1246</sup> Japan takes second complaint to WTO over South Korean shipbuilding, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/11/national/japan-second-complaint-wto-south-korea-shipbuilding/#.Xng00JNKj6Y>

<sup>1247</sup> Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120\\_285974.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html)

<sup>1248</sup> Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120\\_285974.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html)

<sup>1249</sup> Korea, Japan end marathon trade talks with no deal, The Korea Times (Seoul) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120\\_285974.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2020/03/120_285974.html)

<sup>1250</sup> Japan Requests the Establishment of a Panel under the WTO Agreement Regarding India’s Measures Concerning Tariff Increase on ICT Products, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319_001.html)

<sup>1251</sup> Japan Requests the Establishment of a Panel under the WTO Agreement Regarding India’s Measures Concerning Tariff Increase on ICT Products, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0319_001.html)

From 22-24 April, 15-20 May, and 9 July 2020, Japan participated in negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with the members of ASEAN, Australia, China, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand.<sup>1252,1253,1254</sup>

On 9 June 2020, Japan began virtual negotiations with the United Kingdom for a comprehensive UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement, with the intention of expanding the existing EU-Japan agreement in digital trade and other industries.<sup>1255</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Japan temporarily blocked a request by Korea for the WTO to investigate Japan's export-license restrictions on electronics components, as a part of an ongoing trade dispute between Japan and South Korea.<sup>1256</sup> Japan has stated that its restrictions were part of an effort to prevent "Japanese goods from being diverted to weapons or military use," and that these restrictions were entirely within WTO guidelines.<sup>1257</sup>

On 17 August 2020, the Tax Convention between Japan and Jamaica entered into force, promoting rules-based international trade through the prevention of double taxation, international tax evasion, and tax avoidance.<sup>1258</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the United Kingdom and Japan announced the resumption of the "UK in JAPAN" campaign to "strengthen the bilateral relationship and deepen the partnership" between the two governments, which had been paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1259</sup> The campaign will focus on how the UK-Japan partnership can be utilized to facilitate post-pandemic economic recovery.<sup>1260</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Tax Convention between Japan and Uzbekistan entered into force, promoting rules-based international trade through the prevention of double taxation, international tax evasion, and tax avoidance.<sup>1261</sup>

On 11 September, the United Kingdom secured a free trade agreement with Japan.<sup>1262</sup> The free trade agreement will ensure that 99 per cent of British exports to Japan are tariff-free.<sup>1263</sup>

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<sup>1252</sup> Joint Statement of the 29th Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Trade Negotiating Committee (RCEP TNC) Meeting, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e\\_000150.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press1e_000150.html)

<sup>1253</sup> 30th Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002808.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002808.html)

<sup>1254</sup> 31st Round of Negotiations for Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Tokyo) 13 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002857.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002857.html)

<sup>1255</sup> UK and Japan start trade negotiations, Department for International Trade (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-start-trade-negotiations>

<sup>1256</sup> Japan temporarily blocks South Korean WTO dispute request, Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/30/business/japan-blocks-south-korean-wto-request/#.Xxt19PhKj6Y>

<sup>1257</sup> Japan temporarily blocks South Korean WTO dispute request, Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/06/30/business/japan-blocks-south-korean-wto-request/#.Xxt19PhKj6Y>

<sup>1258</sup> Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Jamaica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002879.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002879.html)

<sup>1259</sup> Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1260</sup> Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1261</sup> Entry into force of the Tax Convention between Japan and Uzbekistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002909.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002909.html)

Japan has fully complied with this commitment through strong contributions to addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, strongly reinforcing the existing work of the WTO through entering into an economic partnership with the European Union, and strong action in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions (including through including co-chairing negotiations around updating WTO's regulations on the digital economy).

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 4 November 2019, President Moon Jae-in met with nations participating in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the world's largest free trade agreement, during negotiations in Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>1264</sup> President Moon delivered a speech that emphasized the value of free trade between nations and further economic cooperation.<sup>1265</sup>

On 14 November 2019, Korea co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.<sup>1266</sup> The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”<sup>1267</sup>

On 22 December 2019, Trade, Industry and Energy Minister Sung Yun-mo met with Chinese and Japanese trade ministers in Beijing to reaffirm their support for a trilateral free-trade deal.<sup>1268</sup> Additionally, they agreed to continue their joint efforts to deliver the RCEP trade deal, support reform of the WTO, and successfully develop a multilateral global trade system.<sup>1269</sup>

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<sup>1262</sup> UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

<sup>1263</sup> UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

<sup>1264</sup> World's biggest free trade deal concluded at RCEP summit, Government of Korea (Seoul) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <http://www.korea.net/Government/Current-Affairs/Foreign-Affairs/view?affairId=1981&subId=1766&articleId=178832&viewId=51510>

<sup>1265</sup> World's biggest free trade deal concluded at RCEP summit, Government of Korea (Seoul) 5 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <http://www.korea.net/Government/Current-Affairs/Foreign-Affairs/view?affairId=1981&subId=1766&articleId=178832&viewId=51510>

<sup>1266</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1267</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1268</sup> China, Japan, South Korea to push for RCEP signing in 2020, The Straits Times (Singapore) 24 December 2019.

Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-japan-south-korea-to-push-for-rcep-signing-in-2020>

<sup>1269</sup> China, Japan, South Korea to push for RCEP signing in 2020, The Straits Times (Singapore) 24 December 2019.

Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/china-japan-south-korea-to-push-for-rcep-signing-in-2020>

On 16 January 2020, Korea was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1270</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1271</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Korea was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1272</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1273</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Korean Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy Director General Lee Ho-hyun held a teleconference with Yoichi Iida, Japan's head of the trade control department at the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.<sup>1274</sup> Both countries agreed to further discussions on resolving bilateral tensions due to trade export controls placed on each other.<sup>1275</sup>

Korea has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Vanessa Li*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 30 September 2019, Mexico attended the informal meeting of the Council for Trade in Services in Special Session.<sup>1276</sup> Alongside Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland, Mexico proposed removing barriers to trade in environmental services including sewage, sanitation, refuse disposal,

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<sup>1270</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1271</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1272</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1273</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1274</sup> Japan and South Korea trade officials hold talks on contentious export controls, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/10/business/japan-south-korea-trade-talks/>

<sup>1275</sup> Japan and South Korea trade officials hold talks on contentious export controls, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/10/business/japan-south-korea-trade-talks/>

<sup>1276</sup> WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_30sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm)

cleaning of exhaust gases, noise abatement, and environmental protection services.<sup>1277</sup> The proposal states that these actions would “reduce the costs of implementing environmental policies and help governments achieve environmental objectives.”<sup>1278</sup>

On 14 November 2019, Mexico co-organized a workshop on “Regulatory frameworks to facilitate trade in services” with Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia, at the WTO.<sup>1279</sup> The workshop discussed “the need for more transparent and predictable domestic regulations to help enhance productivity in services and for efficient services to strengthen developing countries’ connectivity to the global economy.”<sup>1280</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Mexico signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).<sup>1281</sup> The trade agreement is meant to improve on the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.<sup>1282</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Mexico was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1283</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1284</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Mexico was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1285</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1286</sup>

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<sup>1277</sup> WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_30sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1278</sup> WTO members engage in exploratory talks on market access for environmental services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_30sep19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_30sep19_e.htm)

<sup>1279</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1280</sup> Workshop discusses domestic regulation role in facilitating trade in services, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/serv\\_14nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/serv_14nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1281</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

<sup>1282</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

<sup>1283</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1284</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1285</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1286</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)



On 8 June 2020, Mexico nominated Jesús Seade Kuri for the post of WTO Director-General to succeed Roberto Azevêdo, the current Director-General.<sup>1287</sup> Roberto Azevêdo has announced that he will step down on 31 August 2020.<sup>1288</sup>

On 14 July 2020, Ambassador of Mexico to India made a statement on furthering India-Mexico partnership in shaping multilateral order.<sup>1289</sup> Following the nomination of Dr. Seade Kuri's nomination, Ambassador Federico Salas remarked that the commitment to multilateral solutions is shared by both members and they will have a chance to reinforce it during their tenure as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.<sup>1290</sup> He added, "both India and Mexico are like-minded partners due to their adherence to international order, global governance and democracy. As regional leaders, they work towards a stronger and reformed multilateralism."<sup>1291</sup>

On 15 July 2020, Mexico's candidate for WTO chief called on members to urgently vet candidates for the WTO chief position and address a "deep crises" within the organization.<sup>1292</sup> Dr Jesús Seade Kuri dismissed suggestions that a final decision on the next chief should be delayed until after the U.S. presidential election.<sup>1293</sup> He said, "Criticism of the body is shared across the political spectrum in Washington. Precisely for that reason I think the election should not create an obsession to make a decision before and after — we should make that decision as soon as possible."<sup>1294</sup>

Mexico has participated in addressing the dispute settlement system, specifically resolving the Appellate Body impasses, has strengthened the work of the WTO's regular bodies through the USMCA, and has taken action to improve the WTO's negotiating work by making substantive proposals for trade in environmental services.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Srijan Sabu*

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<sup>1287</sup> Mexico nominates Dr Jesus Seade Kuri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dgssel\\_mex\\_08jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgssel_mex_08jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1288</sup> Mexico nominates Dr Jesus Seade Kuri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dgssel\\_mex\\_08jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgssel_mex_08jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1289</sup> Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

<sup>1290</sup> Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

<sup>1291</sup> Mexico pitches stronger ties with India to reinvigorate WTO to strengthen multilateralism, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/mexico-pitches-stronger-ties-with-india-to-reinvigorate-wto-to-strengthen-multilateralism/articleshow/76951816.cms>

<sup>1292</sup> Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

<sup>1293</sup> Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

<sup>1294</sup> Mexico's candidate for WTO chief post urges hasty vetting of next leader amid 'deep crisis', Successful farming 15 July 2020. Access date: 09 August 2020. <https://www.agriculture.com/markets/newswire/mexicos-candidate-for-wto-chief-post-urges-hasty-vetting-of-next-leader-amid-deep>

**Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 9 July 2019, Russia initiated a dispute against the anti-dumping duties imposed by the United States on steel imports which is currently in the consultation stage of the WTO dispute mechanism procedure.<sup>1295</sup>

On 26 November 2019, Russia participated in a meeting of the WTO Agriculture Committee during which Russia proposed a Trade Distorting Support-reducing formula, which was welcomed by WTO members.<sup>1296</sup> Since the 2017 Ministerial Conference, this was the first submission to be introduced that was formula-based.<sup>1297</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Russia was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1298</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1299</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the WTO decision regarding the Russia-Ukraine rail equipment export dispute was delivered to the public, which Russia has appeared to comply with.<sup>1300</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Russia was involved with the WTO Arbitrator’s decision on its dumping dispute with the Ukraine.<sup>1301</sup> This shows a willingness to engage with WTO bodies and the Appellate Board.

On 10 June 2020, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov affirmed that Russia’s place within the WTO was of benefit to the country, and that they would not be withdrawing from the WTO.<sup>1302</sup> Remaining within the WTO obviously shows care for the WTO and an appreciation of its worth, although does not give notice to any action taken to improve the organization.

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<sup>1295</sup> Russia initiates WTO dispute against US dumping duties on steel, World Trade Organization 9 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/ds586rfc\\_09jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/ds586rfc_09jul19_e.htm)

<sup>1296</sup> Agriculture meeting marks “turning point” as negotiations enter decisive stage, chair says, World Trade Organization 26 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/agri\\_03dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/agri_03dec19_e.htm)

<sup>1297</sup> Agriculture meeting marks “turning point” as negotiations enter decisive stage, chair says, World Trade Organization 26 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/agri\\_03dec19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/agri_03dec19_e.htm)

<sup>1298</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1299</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1300</sup> WTO Delivers Mixed Ruling in Russia, Ukraine Rail Feud, RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty (Ukraine) 5 Feb 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/wto-delivers-mixed-ruling-in-russia-ukraine-rail-feud/30418121.html>

<sup>1301</sup> WTO Arbitrator determines “reasonable period of time” in Ukraine-Russia dumping dispute, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/493arb2\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/493arb2_e.htm)

<sup>1302</sup> Manturov: Russia’s Withdrawal from WTO Is Unreasonable, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://russiabusinessstoday.com/economy/manturov-russias-withdrawal-from-wto-is-unreasonable/>

On 24 July 2020, it was reported that the WTO had found that the EU's anti-dumping cost-adjustment measures were in dispute with the WTO's rules surrounding anti-dumping, thereby upholding Russia's complaint on all fronts — excepting the fact that they did not find the EU's "framework anti-dumping regulation" to fully break the rules of the WTO.<sup>1303</sup> This was received favorably by Russian economy minister, Maxim Reshetnikov.<sup>1304</sup>

On 28 July 2020, it was reported that discussions had occurred the week prior in which the Russian economic development minister noted conflicts between the EU's proposed border carbon tax and the WTO rules.<sup>1305</sup> This shows an upholding on the WTO's work and rulings.

On 24 August 2020, it was reported that a request from Russia had been received by the WTO.<sup>1306</sup> The request was for a dispute consideration on the energy adjustments dispute between the EU and Russia,<sup>1307</sup> thereby showing a willingness to work within the confines of WTO procedure and respect the work being done.

On 4 September 2020, Russia along with its BRICS counterparts, India, China, Brazil and South Africa, publicly supported the World Trade Organization amidst US President Donald Trump's tirade against the organization.<sup>1308</sup> The nations reaffirmed their support for a "a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system."<sup>1309</sup> The nations reiterated the importance of reforms in the WTO and called for the immediate appointments to the appellate body. They "stressed the urgency of ensuring the restoration and preservation of the normal functioning of the WTO Dispute Settlement System."<sup>1310</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Russia presented a submission based on the Round Table-Type Discussion on Enhancing Transparency in Applied Tariffs from January 2020 at the WTO meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. Russia "said it will continue to seek ways of improving

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<sup>1303</sup> WTO largely upholds Russia's case against EU anti-dumping measures, Reuters (Geneva) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-eu-russia/wto-largely-upholds-russias-case-against-eu-anti-dumping-measures-idUSKCN24P1VO>

<sup>1304</sup> Russia welcomes WTO ruling on EU anti-dumping measures, Reuters (Moscow) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-russia/russia-welcomes-wto-ruling-on-eu-anti-dumping-measures-idUSKCN24P1WT>

<sup>1305</sup> Russia warns EU against carbon border tax plan, citing WTO rules, Climate Home News Ltd. (Broadstairs) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/07/28/russia-warns-eu-carbon-border-tax-plan-citing-wto-rules/>

<sup>1306</sup> Russia requests WTO consideration of decision on dispute with EU on energy adjustments, approval expected at end of Aug - Reshetnikov, Interfax (Moscow) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/69662/>

<sup>1307</sup> Russia requests WTO consideration of decision on dispute with EU on energy adjustments, approval expected at end of Aug - Reshetnikov, Interfax (Moscow) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://interfax.com/newsroom/top-stories/69662/>

<sup>1308</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1309</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

<sup>1310</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald 05 September 2020. Access date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

transparency in applied tariffs in order to prepare concrete proposals” for the 12<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference.<sup>1311</sup>

Russia has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.

Thus, Russia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Fiona Reuter*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 24 October 2019, the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC), of which Saudi Arabia is a member, notified the WTO Committee on Safeguards that the GCC had begun a safeguard investigation into a variety of steel products.<sup>1312</sup> This partially meets the criteria of upholding the rules-based global trade regime under Action 2 of strengthening the existing work of the WTO as it is a signatory to this initiative.

On 24 January 2020, Saudi Arabia’s Minister of Commerce Majid Al-Qasabi presented the Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the WTO at the Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering.<sup>1313</sup> The Riyadh Initiative was officially launched under the G20 2020 Riyadh presidency, on March 11, 2020, at the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group’s first meeting, “to provide the political support needed to make progress in the discussions on WTO reforms among all WTO members.”<sup>1314</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG), chaired by the Governor of the General Authority of Foreign Trade Abdulrahman Al-Harbi, held its first meeting in the run-up to the 2020 Riyadh Summit.<sup>1315</sup> During this work meeting, G20 members agreed to launch the “Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the World Trade Organization.” This initiative aims to identify common ground and shared principles among all G20 members on the WTO’s next 25 years, and beyond, and to provide the political support needed to make progress in the discussions on WTO reforms among all WTO members.<sup>1316</sup> Members engaged in a productive dialogue on current

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<sup>1311</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1312</sup> GCC launches safeguard investigation on certain steel products, WTO (Geneva) 24 October 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/safe\\_kwt\\_25oct19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/safe_kwt_25oct19_e.htm)

<sup>1313</sup> Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, Personal Concluding Remarks by the Chair, Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin, Switzerland, 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/60028.pdf>.

<sup>1314</sup> G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on The Future of the WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia 2020, 11 March 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

[https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS\\_PR\\_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf).

<sup>1315</sup> G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020.

[https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS\\_PR\\_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf)

<sup>1316</sup> G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020.

[https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS\\_PR\\_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf)

international trade developments including WTO reform, pathways to economic diversification, boosting the international competitiveness of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), especially for the benefit of women and youth, and strengthening international investment.<sup>1317</sup> They also discussed the urgent need for reform of the dispute settlement system.<sup>1318</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the WTO Deputy Director General Alan Wolff hosted a Think 20 virtual panel on policy recommendations for a post-COVID 19 world organized by the Saudi Arabian host of the 2020 G20 summit.<sup>1319</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the TIWG outlined several proposals with regards to WTO reform. Saudi official Said Al-Shaikh emphasized the role of the G20 forum to reach a large-scale reform of the rules-based WTO system. The recommendations proposed by the TIWG include “providing a mechanism to settle disputes surrounding subsidy issues and activating the organization’s oversight and operational role, increasing the consistency and transparency in trade barriers, addressing the transition to digital trade and developing solutions to dispute resolution mechanisms in the WTO.”<sup>1320</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nominated Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri for post of WTO Director-General to succeed the current Director-General, Roberto Azevêdo, who announced he will step down on 31 August 2020.<sup>1321</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken actions to resolve the current Appellate Board impasse through the creation of the “Riyadh Initiative on the Future of the World Trade Organization” in the lead-up to the G20 Leaders’ summit, to reinforce the existing work of the WTO and to actively participate in the negotiations surrounding WTO reform through the proposals made by the TIWG.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Christopher Sims and Alexandre Nouailles*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 10 July 2019, South Africa introduced a submission to the World Trade Organization to create an “inclusive approach” to transparency.<sup>1322</sup> The document discussed simplifying the notification process and lessening punitive measures.<sup>1323</sup>

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<sup>1317</sup> G20 Addresses International Trade and Investment Priorities Including the Impact of COVID-19 and Launched the Initiative on the Future of WTO, G20 Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. [https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS\\_PR\\_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting\\_EN.pdf](https://g20.org/en/media/Documents/G20SS_PR_G20%20Trade%20&%20Investment%20Working%20Group%20Meeting_EN.pdf)

<sup>1318</sup> G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting: Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 30 October 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-trade-0922.html>

<sup>1319</sup> DDG Wolff: Pandemic underlines need to improve trading system’s relevance and resilience, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/ddgaw\\_18jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ddgaw_18jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1320</sup> Rawan Radwan, “WTO needs urgent reform, says Saudi trade group,” Arab News (Riyadh) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1699132/saudi-arabia>

<sup>1321</sup> The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia nominates Mr. Mohammad Maziad Al-Tuwaijri for post of WTO Director-General, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dgtsel\\_sau\\_08jul20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dgtsel_sau_08jul20_e.htm)

<sup>1322</sup> WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/good\\_10jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm)

On 26 July 2019, South Africa tabled a joint proposal with eight other WTO members that called for the resolution of the Appellate Body impasse and the prohibition of unilateral trade measures.<sup>1324</sup> The proposal also sought to make development a central focus of the WTO and addressed areas of needed reform in the WTO.<sup>1325</sup>

On 6 December 2019, South Africa and India threatened to end a 20-year WTO ban on imposing tariffs on digital trade.<sup>1326</sup> The two countries argued in a document the digitalization of multiple products, such as 3D printing, warrants re-considering the ban.<sup>1327</sup> The ban, of which renewal required unanimous support, ended up being extended to June 2020.<sup>1328</sup>

On 16 January, South Africa was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1329</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1330</sup>

On 29 June 2020, South Africa declined to participate in the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body proposed to fulfill the duties of the Appellate Body. South Africa stated its reason for opting out of the agreement was over its uneasiness of the body becoming permanent.<sup>1331</sup>

On 5 September 2020, South Africa, along with the four other BRICS members, reaffirmed its commitment to “a transparent, open, inclusive and non-discriminatory rules-based multilateral trading system, as embodied in the WTO.”<sup>1332</sup>

On 25 September 2020, as a member of the Cairns Group, South Africa took part in a submission that was presented by Australia on protecting global food security through open trade at the WTO

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<sup>1323</sup> WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/good\\_10jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm)

<sup>1324</sup> India’s proposal for WTO reforms supported by a large majority of countries, Livemint (Geneva) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-s-proposal-for-wto-reforms-supported-by-a-large-majority-of-countries-1564144186373.html>

<sup>1325</sup> India, eight others, caution WTO against reforms that worsen imbalances, The Hindu BusinessLine (New Delhi) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-eight-others-caution-wto-against-reforms-that-worsen-imbalances/article28522575.ece>

<sup>1326</sup> WTO ban on tariffs for digital trade extended until June 2020, Reuters (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-internet/wto-ban-on-tariffs-for-digital-trade-extended-until-june-2020-idUSKBN1YE16A>

<sup>1327</sup> Trade war goes digital: countries eye tariffs on Internet economy, Reuters (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/trade-wto-internet/rpt-trade-war-goes-digital-countries-eye-tariffs-on-internet-economy-idUSL8N28G3QP>

<sup>1328</sup> WTO ban on tariffs for digital trade extended until June 2020, Reuters (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-trade-wto-internet/wto-ban-on-tariffs-for-digital-trade-extended-until-june-2020-idUSKBN1YE16A>

<sup>1329</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1330</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1331</sup> Panels established to review Indian tech tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1332</sup> India, China join other BRICS nations to support WTO, Deccan Herald (New Delhi) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-china-join-other-brics-nations-to-support-wto-882626.html>

meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session.<sup>1333</sup> The submission “calls on WTO members to ensure that any emergency measures in agriculture in response to COVID-19 are targeted proportionate, transparent, temporary and consistent with WTO rules and to exercise restraint when considering introducing new measures; and for all members to be transparent about any COVID-related agriculture measures and to notify the WTO as soon as possible when adopting such measures.. [and] calls on WTO members to refrain from imposing export restrictions on food purchases by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) and other humanitarian agencies and stresses the importance of the negotiation to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.”<sup>1334</sup> The proposal is made up of five elements that “focus on entitlements, rather than actual support levels...ensuring those with the highest entitlements and potential impact on global markets would make the biggest contributions; and ensuring the individual development needs of members are taken into account.”<sup>1335</sup>

South Africa has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Geoffrey Burrows*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

From 12 to 13 November 2019, Turkey participated in a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee on the subject of safety and quality testing for products.<sup>1336</sup> At the meeting, there was discussion over cosmetic regulations introduced between 2016 and 2018 in Turkey, with which the United States disagreed.<sup>1337</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Turkey was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1338</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1339</sup>

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<sup>1333</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1334</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1335</sup> WTO members resume agriculture negotiations following COVID-19 pause, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/agng\\_25sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/agng_25sep20_e.htm)

<sup>1336</sup> WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/tbt\\_16nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1337</sup> WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/tbt\\_16nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1338</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

On 19 March 2020, Turkey filed a complaint against the European Unions' steel safeguard through the WTO.<sup>1340</sup> This shows an understanding and appreciation of the WTO's regulations and dispute measures.

On 22 May 2020, Turkey submitted a communication to the WTO in which they proposed the suspension of specific European Union steel products.<sup>1341</sup> This shows a willingness to utilize and participate in WTO procedures, and the submission recognizes the WTO's significance.

In June 2020, Turkey participated as a third party in the establishment of a panel by the Dispute Settlement Body on multiple disputes, including ones regarding: India and the European Union, European Union and Colombia, Indian tariffs, the European Union and Indonesia, and Japan and Korea.<sup>1342,1343,1344</sup> This shows an appreciation of the WTO's dispute resolution structure, and the ongoing work and role of the WTO.

In June 2020, Turkey welcomed a decision by the Appellate Body.<sup>1345</sup> This demonstrates their acknowledgement of the Appellate Body's importance, and their reinforcement of the WTO's work.

In June 2020, Turkey affirmed the importance of keeping confidentiality within the dispute settlement system and considering its importance during the discussion of improvements to the system. This shows that Turkey understands the importance of improving the system and has considered what should be addressed in the improvements and bettering of the WTO.<sup>1346</sup>

On 28 August 2020, it was reported that Turkey requested — for the second time — that the WTO create a panel to review the European Union's steel product imports, despite the arguments against the motion from Turkey.<sup>1347</sup>

Turkey has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improving the WTO's negotiating work.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

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<sup>1339</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1340</sup> Turkey initiates WTO dispute complaint against EU steel safeguard, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/ds595rfc\\_19mar20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds595rfc_19mar20_e.htm)

<sup>1341</sup> On Safeguards Turkey, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=263928,262888,262911,262912,260132,259669,254442,252850,252868,251968&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=False](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=263928,262888,262911,262912,260132,259669,254442,252850,252868,251968&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=False)

<sup>1342</sup> Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1343</sup> United States – Anti-dumping and countervailing duties on ripe olives from Spain, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/tratop\\_e/dispu\\_e/cases\\_e/ds577\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dispu_e/cases_e/ds577_e.htm)

<sup>1344</sup> Panels established to review Indian tech tariffs, Japanese export restrictions, EU palm oil measures, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_29jul20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jul20_e.htm)

<sup>1345</sup> Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1346</sup> Panels established to review Indian tariffs, Colombian duties on fries, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_29jun20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_29jun20_e.htm)

<sup>1347</sup> Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_28aug20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm)



*Analyst: Fiona Reuter*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 18 July 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade and political continuity agreement with six Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama.<sup>1348</sup> The UK-Central America Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Central America trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1349</sup>

On 22 August 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity free trade agreement with Korea.<sup>1350</sup> The UK-Korea Free Trade Agreement will ensure that the UK and Korea trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1351</sup>

On 11 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed an Economic Partnership Agreement with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique.<sup>1352</sup> The Southern African Customs Union consists of South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Eswatini.<sup>1353</sup> The UK-SACU+M Economic Partnership Agreement ensure that the UK will trade with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1354</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the United Kingdom signed a continuity trade deal with Lebanon.<sup>1355</sup> The UK-Lebanon Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Lebanon trade on the preferential

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<sup>1348</sup> UK and Central America sign continuity agreement, Foreign Commonwealth Office (Managua) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-central-america-sign-continuity-agreement>

<sup>1349</sup> UK and Central America sign continuity agreement, Foreign Commonwealth Office (Managua) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-central-america-sign-continuity-agreement>

<sup>1350</sup> UK and Korea to sign trade continuity deal to ensure businesses are ready to trade post-Brexit, Department for International Trade (London) 21 August 2019. Access date: February 7 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-korea-to-sign-trade-continuity-deal-to-ensure-businesses-are-ready-to-trade-post-brexit>

<sup>1351</sup> UK and Korea to sign trade continuity deal to ensure businesses are ready to trade post-Brexit, Department for International Trade (London) 21 August 2019. Access Date: February 7 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-korea-to-sign-trade-continuity-deal-to-ensure-businesses-are-ready-to-trade-post-brexit>

<sup>1352</sup> UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

<sup>1353</sup> UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

<sup>1354</sup> UK agreed trade continuity with 6 African nations, Department for International Development (London) 11 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-agreed-trade-continuity-with-six-african-nations>

<sup>1355</sup> UK and Lebanon sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-lebanon-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1356</sup>

On 10 October 2019, UK Secretary of State for International Trade Elizabeth Truss met with trade ministers from a number of Commonwealth countries and created an action plan to “boost trade among their countries to at least \$2 trillion by 2030, through the Commonwealth Collectivity Agenda.”<sup>1357</sup> They stated the need for the current impasse of the WTO’s Appellate Body to end, for WTO rules to be updated to address e-commerce, and for an international agreement regarding fish subsidies to reduce illegal fishing.<sup>1358</sup>

On 21 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement with Georgia.<sup>1359</sup> The UK-Georgia Strategic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement will ensure that the UK and Georgia trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1360</sup>

On 26 October 2019, the United Kingdom signed a trade and political continuity agreement with Morocco.<sup>1361</sup> The UK-Morocco Association Agreement will ensure that the UK and Morocco trade on the preferential terms detailed in the agreement after the United Kingdom has left the European Union, rather than the WTO terms.<sup>1362</sup>

On 24 January 2020, the UK was among 15 other countries and the European Union that agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1363</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1364</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the Prime Minister’s Office issued a statement regarding the United Kingdom’s future relationship with the European Union.<sup>1365</sup> In the statement, the Prime Minister states the need

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<sup>1356</sup> UK and Lebanon sign trade continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-lebanon-sign-trade-continuity-agreement>

<sup>1357</sup> Commonwealth trade ministers: Reform WTO and resist protectionism, Department for International Trade (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-trade-ministers-reform-wto-and-resist-protectionism>

<sup>1358</sup> Commonwealth trade ministers: Reform WTO and resist protectionism, Department for International Trade (London) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-trade-ministers-reform-wto-and-resist-protectionism>

<sup>1359</sup> UK and Georgia sign trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-georgia-sign-trade-continuity-and-strategic-cooperation-agreement>

<sup>1360</sup> UK and Georgia sign trade continuity and strategic cooperation agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-georgia-sign-trade-continuity-and-strategic-cooperation-agreement>

<sup>1361</sup> UK and Morocco sign continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-morocco-sign-continuity-agreement>

<sup>1362</sup> UK and Morocco sign continuity agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2019. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-morocco-sign-continuity-agreement>

<sup>1363</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1364</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: February 09, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1365</sup> The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-relationship-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>

to address regulatory barriers to trade in an effort to expand on the existing WTO Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.<sup>1366</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the United Kingdom published its overall negotiating objectives regarding a free trade agreement with the United States.<sup>1367</sup> The document outlines how the United Kingdom aims to strengthen economic ties with the United States, and “[facilitate] greater choice and lower prices” for Britons without hurting the National Health Service or lowering animal welfare and agricultural standards.<sup>1368</sup> Additionally, the United Kingdom hopes to “futureproof” the free trade agreement for future changes in technology.<sup>1369</sup>

On 3 March 2020, UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss spoke at the WTO General Council.<sup>1370</sup> In the UK’s speech, she called for the WTO to amend its regulations to better challenge “unfair practices” and counter protectionism.<sup>1371</sup> Liz Truss affirmed her commitment to a “free, fair, rules-based international trade,” and denounced “industrial subsidies, state-owned enterprises and forced technology transfer.”<sup>1372</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the United Kingdom issued a statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body underlining their concern regarding the current impasse at the WTO Appellate Body and support for Mexico’s statement regarding the impasse.<sup>1373</sup> The statement recognizes the concerns causing the impasse, but stresses the situation’s urgency, and calls “on all Members to act urgently to restore the system to full functioning, whilst we prioritize discussions on a long-term solution to the concerns raised.”<sup>1374</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the United Kingdom announced that “vital medical equipment including ventilators, coronavirus testing kits and protective clothing” arriving in the United Kingdom from outside the European Union would not be subject to import taxes.<sup>1375</sup>

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<sup>1366</sup> The Future Relationship between the UK and the EU, Prime Minister’s Office (London) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-future-relationship-between-the-uk-and-the-eu>

<sup>1367</sup> Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

<sup>1368</sup> Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

<sup>1369</sup> Liz Truss kick-starts UK-US trade talks, Department for International Trade (London) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/liz-truss-kick-starts-uk-us-trade-talks>

<sup>1370</sup> Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

<sup>1371</sup> Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

<sup>1372</sup> Britain is back: Liz Truss calls for new rules at WTO to tackle unfair trade practices, Department for International Trade (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-is-back-liz-truss-calls-for-new-rules-at-wto-to-tackle-unfair-trade-practices>

<sup>1373</sup> UK Statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organizations (Geneva) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-to-the-wto-meeting-of-the-dispute-settlement-body>

<sup>1374</sup> UK Statement to the WTO meeting of the Dispute Settlement Body, UK Mission to the WTO, UN and Other International Organizations (Geneva) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-statement-to-the-wto-meeting-of-the-dispute-settlement-body>

<sup>1375</sup> Chancellor waives duties and VAT on vital medical imports, HM Treasury (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-waives-duties-and-vat-on-vital-medical-imports>

On 6 April 2020, the United Kingdom released its plans to support 160,000 exporters and international investors during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1376</sup> Exporters and investors were emailed an outline of financial support available to them.<sup>1377</sup>

From 5-15 May 2020, the United Kingdom participated virtually in the first round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1378</sup> The Department for International Trade reported that “[t]he meetings were positive and constructive,” and that there was “positive alignment between respective negotiating positions [particularly those regarding] ... services, investment and digital trade.”<sup>1379</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the United Kingdom announced its replacement for the EU’s Common External Tariff, the UK Global Tariff (UKGT).<sup>1380</sup> The UKGT will come into effect on 1 January 2021, at the conclusion of the Transitional Period of the United Kingdom’s departure from the European Union.<sup>1381</sup> The streamlined UKGT will eliminate tariffs on a number of products, reducing business costs and barriers to free trade.<sup>1382</sup>

On 9 June 2020, the United Kingdom began virtual negotiations with Japan for a comprehensive UK-Japan Free Trade Agreement, with the intention of expanding the existing EU-Japan agreement in digital trade and other industries.<sup>1383</sup>

From 15 to 26 June 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the second round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1384</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the United Kingdom announced the start of a modelling review to aid in building its trade negotiation capability to support economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 era.<sup>1385</sup>

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<sup>1376</sup> Coronavirus: DIT offers support to exporters and investors, Department for International Trade (London) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-dit-offers-support-to-exporters-and-investors>

<sup>1377</sup> Coronavirus: DIT offers support to exporters and investors, Department for International Trade (London) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-dit-offers-support-to-exporters-and-investors>

<sup>1378</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update>

<sup>1379</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update>

<sup>1380</sup> Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

<sup>1381</sup> Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

<sup>1382</sup> Government announces UK Global Tariff, Government Chemist (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-announces-uk-global-tariff>

<sup>1383</sup> UK and Japan start trade negotiations, Department for International Trade (London) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-start-trade-negotiations>

<sup>1384</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update: Written Statement, Department for International Trade (London) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-06-30/HCWS324/>

<sup>1385</sup> The Department for International Trade launches modelling review to support economic recovery, Department for International Trade (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-department-for-international-trade-launches-modelling-review-to-support-economic-recovery>

On 6 July 2020, the United Kingdom announced that 49 individuals and organizations complicit in human rights abuses would be sanctioned under the new “Magnitsky-style regime”, including Russian, Saudi, and Burmese nationals.<sup>1386</sup> With the new regime, the United Kingdom has a greater power to prevent those complicit in human rights abuses from “entering the country, channeling money through UK banks, or profiting from [the UK] economy.”<sup>1387</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the United Kingdom nominated former International Trade Secretary, Liam Fox as the next Director General of the World Trade Organization.<sup>1388</sup>

On 10 July 2020, the United Kingdom concluded the first round of negotiations to form a UK-Australia Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1389</sup>

From 20 to 21 July 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the second round of discussions surrounding the UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review.<sup>1390</sup>

On 13 and 24 July 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the first round of negotiations to form a UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1391</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the Tech for Growth Programme was launched by the Department for International Trade with the aim to improve access to financial services and support the growth of ‘financial technology’ (FinTech) trade.<sup>1392</sup> The programme will focus on the African market for one year following its launch, and followed by the South East Asian and Latin American markets.<sup>1393</sup>

On 27 July to 7 August 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the third round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1394</sup> The Department for International Trade reported that following the third round, “[m]ost chapter areas are now moving into the advanced

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<sup>1386</sup> UK announces first sanctions under new global human rights regime, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-first-sanctions-under-new-global-human-rights-regime>

<sup>1387</sup> UK announces first sanctions under new global human rights regime, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-announces-first-sanctions-under-new-global-human-rights-regime>

<sup>1388</sup> UK nominates Liam Fox as next Director General of the WTO, Department for International Trade (London) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-nominates-liam-fox-as-next-director-general-of-the-wto>

<sup>1389</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with Australia: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-australia-update>

<sup>1390</sup> UK-Indonesia Joint Trade Review: second round of discussions, Department for International Trade (London) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-indonesia-joint-trade-review-second-round-of-discussions>

<sup>1391</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with New Zealand: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-new-zealand-update>

<sup>1392</sup> Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

<sup>1393</sup> Tech for Growth' designed to increase financial services access, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tech-for-growth-designed-to-increase-financial-services-access>

<sup>1394</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--2>

stages of talks, with particularly detailed, text-based discussions taking place on Intellectual Property.”<sup>1395</sup>

On 28 July 2020, the new Trade and Agriculture Commission was launched by the Department for International Trade to provide a platform for industry stakeholders to engage with the development of trade policy that will boost exports while protecting animal welfare and the environment.<sup>1396</sup> Over the six months following its launch, the Trade and Agriculture Commission will compile their findings into a report.<sup>1397</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the United Kingdom and Japan announced the resumption of the “UK in JAPAN” campaign to “strengthen the bilateral relationship and deepen the partnership” between the two governments, which had been paused amid the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1398</sup> The campaign will focus on how the UK-Japan partnership can be utilized to facilitate post-pandemic economic recovery.<sup>1399</sup>

On 8 September, Brandon Lewis, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland announced that the government of the United Kingdom was in the process of writing legislation that will “break international law in a very specific and limited way.”<sup>1400</sup> The legislation in question was the “Internal Market Bill”, which planned to breach the Brexit withdrawal agreement ratified in January with the European Union. This breach would represent a violation of international law.<sup>1401</sup>

From 8 to 18 September 2020, the United Kingdom participated in the fourth round of negotiations for a comprehensive UK-US Free Trade Agreement.<sup>1402</sup> The exchange of tariff offers before the negotiations began marked a significant step forward towards an agreement.<sup>1403</sup>

On 9 September, the United Kingdom launched discussions with negotiators from all 11 signatories of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, with the intention of formal accession in the future.<sup>1404</sup>

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<sup>1395</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s future trading relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--2>

<sup>1396</sup> Truss formally launches Trade and Agriculture Commission, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-formally-launches-trade-and-agriculture-commission>

<sup>1397</sup> Truss formally launches Trade and Agriculture Commission, Department for International Trade (London) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/truss-formally-launches-trade-and-agriculture-commission>

<sup>1398</sup> Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1399</sup> Restart of the UK in JAPAN campaign, British Embassy (Tokyo) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1400</sup> UK’s Brexit plans would ‘break international law,’ minister admits, CNN (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1401</sup> UK’s Brexit plans would ‘break international law,’ minister admits, CNN (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/restart-of-the-uk-in-japan-campaign--2>

<sup>1402</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--3>

<sup>1403</sup> Negotiations on the UK’s Future Trading Relationship with the US: Update, Department for International Trade (London) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/negotiations-on-the-uks-future-trading-relationship-with-the-us-update--3>

On 11 September, the United Kingdom secured a free trade agreement with Japan.<sup>1405</sup> The free trade agreement with Japan marks “an important step towards joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership,” in addition to ensuring that 99 per cent of British exports to Japan will be tariff-free.<sup>1406</sup>

The United Kingdom has participated in resolving the current Appellate Body impasse, strengthening the work of the WTO’s regular bodies and improving the WTO’s negotiating work.

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

*Analyst: Quinn Teague-Colfer*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm its “support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions.”

On 10 July 2019, the United States introduced a proposal to enhance transparency in the WTO.<sup>1407</sup> The proposal gave WTO members more time to seek assistance and comply with standards before penalties would kick in.<sup>1408</sup>

On 24 July 2019, US Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea released a statement outlining criteria to determine whether a WTO member may “avail itself of ‘special and differential treatment?’”<sup>1409</sup> The statement also raised the issue of transparency in the WTO dispute settlement and US proposals to mandate a more transparent process.<sup>1410</sup> The statement also noted the US considers mandates established in the Doha Round to no longer guide the WTO.<sup>1411</sup>

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<sup>1404</sup> UK takes major step towards membership of Trans-Pacific free trade area, Department for International Trade (London) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-takes-major-step-towards-membership-of-trans-pacific-free-trade-area>

<sup>1405</sup> UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

<sup>1406</sup> UK and Japan agree historic free trade agreement, Department for International Trade (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-japan-agree-historic-free-trade-agreement>

<sup>1407</sup> WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/good\\_10jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm)

<sup>1408</sup> WTO members consider transparency reforms at Goods Council meeting, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/good\\_10jul19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/good_10jul19_e.htm)

<sup>1409</sup> Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

<sup>1410</sup> Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

<sup>1411</sup> Statements delivered by Ambassador Dennis Shea — WTO General Council Meeting Geneva, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/07/24/statements-delivered-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-wto-general-council-meeting-geneva-july-24-2019/>

On 13 August 2019, President Donald Trump threatened to withdraw the US from the WTO at an event in Pennsylvania.<sup>1412</sup> President Trump said conditions would have to improve for the US to stay within the trade body.<sup>1413</sup>

On 14 October 2019, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea noted the US has introduced proposals, with other WTO members, to create a framework to resolve fishery subsidy negotiations.<sup>1414</sup> Ambassador Shea also noted the importance of establishing rules on digital trade.<sup>1415</sup>

On 22 November 2019, the United States declined to support an effort by the Mexican delegation to fill six vacancies in the Appellate Body.<sup>1416</sup> The United States claimed the Body was not respecting the Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1417</sup> The United States also declined to support a similar effort on 10 December 2019.<sup>1418</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the United States delivered a joint statement with several WTO members with the aim to constructively engage on fishery subsidy talks as well as voice approval for the appointment of Ambassador Santiago Wills of Colombia as the new Chair of the Negotiating Group on Rules.<sup>1419</sup> The group of WTO members reaffirmed their commitment to reach an agreement on fishery subsidies.<sup>1420</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the United States signed the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement.<sup>1421</sup> The trade agreement is meant to improve on the perceived deficiencies with the previous North American Free Trade Agreement by including measures like enforceable labour standards and stronger environmental protections.<sup>1422</sup>

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<sup>1412</sup> Trump threatens to pull US from WTO ‘if we have to’, The Straits Times (Monaca) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/trump-threatens-to-pull-us-from-wto-if-we-have-to>

<sup>1413</sup> Trump threatens to pull US from WTO ‘if we have to’, The Straits Times (Monaca) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/world/united-states/trump-threatens-to-pull-us-from-wto-if-we-have-to>

<sup>1414</sup> Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the WTO Heads of Delegation Meeting, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/10/14/statement-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-heads-of-delegation-meeting-geneva-october-14-2019/>

<sup>1415</sup> Statement by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the WTO Heads of Delegation Meeting, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/10/14/statement-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-heads-of-delegation-meeting-geneva-october-14-2019/>

<sup>1416</sup> Members reiterate joint call to launch selection process for Appellate Body members, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dsb\\_22nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dsb_22nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1417</sup> Members reiterate joint call to launch selection process for Appellate Body members, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/dsb\\_22nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/dsb_22nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1418</sup> US seals demise of WTO appeals bench, trade officials say, The Japan Times (Geneva) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 45 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/10/business/u-s-seals-demise-wto-appeals-bench-trade-officials/#.XjzFAy2ZPU>

<sup>1419</sup> Joint Statement on WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/12/06/joint-statement-on-wto-negotiations-on-fisheries-subsidies/>

<sup>1420</sup> Joint Statement on WTO Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2019/12/06/joint-statement-on-wto-negotiations-on-fisheries-subsidies/>

<sup>1421</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>

<sup>1422</sup> US, Mexico, Canada sign USMCA trade deal, Deutsche Welle (Washington) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/us-mexico-canada-sign-usmca-trade-deal/a-51613992>



On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of the United States, Japan and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are “insufficient to tackle market and trade distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions.”<sup>1423</sup> They also stated opposition to the WTO’s classification of certain countries as developing countries.<sup>1424</sup>

On 27 January 2020, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea delivered remarks at an informal meeting of WTO ministers in Davos.<sup>1425</sup> In the statement, Ambassador Shea reiterated concerns over WTO members having failed to submit their fishery subsidy notifications.<sup>1426</sup> Ambassador Shea also reaffirmed the US’s position that it would not support filling Appellate Body vacancies until underlying problems with the Body are resolved.<sup>1427</sup>

On 6 February 2020, Ambassador to the World Trade Organization Dennis Shea gave a speech in which he highlighted examples of US engagement with WTO reform.<sup>1428</sup> He mentioned five specific proposals for fishery subsidy reform, US engagement to expand access to digital technologies and trade, and US advocacy for a review of WTO agricultural policies.<sup>1429</sup> He also highlighted US efforts to increase transparency in the form of WTO members reporting their industrial subsidies.<sup>1430</sup>

On 11 February 2020, the US Trade Representative released a report on the Appellate Body of the WTO. The report outlined and gave examples of the US government’s chief complaints towards the Appellate Body. Specifically, the report accused the Appellate Body of operating outside its mandate when interpreting cases. The report did not offer substantive proposals on reforming the Appellate Body and ending the current impasse.<sup>1431</sup>

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<sup>1423</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>.

<sup>1424</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>.

<sup>1425</sup> Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

<sup>1426</sup> Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

<sup>1427</sup> Statement by Ambassador Shea at Davos Informal WTO Ministerial Gathering, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Davos) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/01/27/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-davos-informal-wto-ministerial-gathering/>

<sup>1428</sup> US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

<sup>1429</sup> US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

<sup>1430</sup> US Engagement at the World Trade Organization, US Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/02/07/u-s-engagement-at-the-world-trade-organization/>

<sup>1431</sup> Report on the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organization (Washington, DC) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. [https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/Report\\_on\\_the\\_Appellate\\_Body\\_of\\_the\\_World\\_Trade\\_Organization.pdf](https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/Report_on_the_Appellate_Body_of_the_World_Trade_Organization.pdf)

On 2 March 2020, the US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, gave a statement reviewing the US President's Trade Policy Agenda. The Ambassador emphasized the importance of reform on fishery subsidies, trade liberalization, and the negotiation function of the WTO to the US. The Policy Agenda laid out reforms the U.S. believes could address these areas of the WTO.<sup>1432</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, gave three statements at the WTO's General Council Meeting. The first proposed criteria to determine which countries may claim "special and differentiated treatment." The second emphasized the importance of market-oriented policies and listed key elements of market policy. The last commented on a report released by the United States Trade Representative in February 2020 on the WTO Appellate Body.<sup>1433</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the US delegation to the WTO submitted a communication to the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body to declare its objection to a WTO Appellate Body ruling. The US argued a member of the Appellate Body was not a valid member of the Body and thus the ruling was invalid. The US claimed the judge in question, Hong Zhao, works for the People's Republic of China and is therefore unable to serve on the Appellate Body under Article 17 of the Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1434</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the US Trade Representative notified the WTO of their compliance with a dispute brought by the European Union over subsidies for Boeing. The US government passed Senate Bill 6690, which removed a preferential tax rate for aerospace manufacturing. The dispute raised by the EU was in response to a Washington State tax rate beneficial to Boeing.<sup>1435</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the US Trade Representative to the WTO declined to support the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body formed by other member states to resolve the WTO dispute settlement system. While the statement stated support for informal procedures to resolve disputes, the US claimed the Multi-Party Interim Appeal Body continued practices the U.S. disagreed with by the Appellate Body.<sup>1436</sup>

On 22 July 2020, US Ambassador to the WTO, Dennis Shea, outlined a United State proposal to reform the special and differential (S&D) treatment classification at the WTO. Currently it is a self-anointed title. The Ambassador highlighted two criteria (of the four total, the first two were addressed in March of 2020), a high income designation by the World Bank and having a share of global merchandise trade greater than 0.5 per cent. The US reiterated the need for S&D reform, as

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<sup>1432</sup> Statement by Ambassador Shea at Heads of Delegation Meeting (Geneva) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/02/statement-by-ambassador-shea-at-heads-of-delegation-meeting/>

<sup>1433</sup> Statements by Ambassador Dennis Shea at the March 3, 2020 General Council Meeting (Geneva) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/03/statements-by-ambassador-dennis-shea-at-the-march-3-2020-general-council-meeting/>

<sup>1434</sup> Item 8 – U.S. Statement at the February 28 DSB Meeting, Reconvened on March 5, 2020, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/03/05/statement-by-the-united-states-at-the-february-28-dsb-meeting-reconvened-on-march-5-2020/>

<sup>1435</sup> U.S. Notifies Full Compliance in WTO Aircraft Dispute, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Washington, DC) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://geneva.usmission.gov/2020/05/06/u-s-notifies-full-compliance-in-wto-aircraft-dispute/>

<sup>1436</sup> Statements by the United States at the Meeting of the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://geneva.usmission.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/290/Jun29.DSB\\_Stmt\\_as-deliv.fin\\_public13218.pdf](https://geneva.usmission.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/290/Jun29.DSB_Stmt_as-deliv.fin_public13218.pdf)

the benefits that come from an S&D designation, are being claimed by countries the U.S. believes to have economically grown past that designation.<sup>1437</sup>

On 20 August 2020, US Trade Representative, Robert Lighthizer, published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal outlining his plan to reform the WTO. Piecemeal reforms, he argued, would not suffice. Rather, Lighthizer laid out five WTO reforms he would champion. Prominent among these are the need to create baseline tariff rates, the recalibration of S&D designations, and the rethinking of the WTO settlement system. On this last point, Lighthizer suggests a single-stage court which is assembled for a case and who's rulings apply only to that particular instance.<sup>1438</sup>

On 24 August 2020, the WTO ruled in favour of Canada against the United States in a dispute over timber prices. The United States, which imposed retaliatory tariffs over perceived Canadian timber subsidies, was told it had not proven Canadian prices were artificially low. US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer responded to the ruling by criticizing the dispute settlement system for what he saw as the protection of non-market practices and opposition to the US's interests.<sup>1439</sup>

On 15 September 2020, the WTO ruled against the United States 2018 imposition of tariffs against China. The tariffs, the appellate court argued were illegally applied only to China and above predetermined rates. The United States argued China's practice of stealing intellectual property justified the tariffs. After the announcement, US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer called the WTO settlement system "completely inadequate to stop China's harmful technology practices." The United States is expected to appeal the decision.<sup>1440</sup>

The United States has taken action to strengthen the work of the WTO's regular bodies and improve the WTO's negotiating work through passing proposals addressing transparency and fishery subsidy negotiations. However, the United States has not taken action to address the dispute settlement system.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Geoffrey Burrows*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm its "support for the necessary reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to improve its functions."

From 12 to 13 November 2019, the European Union participated in a meeting of the Technical Barriers to Trade Committee on the subject of safety and quality testing for products.<sup>1441</sup> There was a

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<sup>1437</sup> Statement by Ambassador Shea – WTO General Council Meeting, U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva (Geneva) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<sup>1438</sup> How to Set World Trade Straight, the Wall Street Journal (New York) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/how-to-set-world-trade-straight-11597966341>

<sup>1439</sup> Canada largely wins WTO case in lumber dispute with U.S., Reuters (Brussels) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-canada-wto-idUSKBN25K1OR>

<sup>1440</sup> WTO finds Washington broke trade rules by putting tariffs on China; ruling angers U.S., Reuters (Brussels/Geneva) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/usa-trade-china-wto/wto-finds-washington-broke-trade-rules-by-putting-tariffs-on-china-ruling-angers-us-idUSKBN2662N5>

<sup>1441</sup> WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/tbt\\_16nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm)

specific concern regarding the EU's external power supply ecological design requirements, which were believed to be unjustified by China.<sup>1442</sup>

On 10 December 2019, EU Trade Commissioner Phil Horgan stated his concern over the WTO's problems, which he explained represent a "very serious blow to the international rules-based trade system."<sup>1443</sup> He supported reform of the WTO, while stressing that its functions are important in the realm of creating equitable and just trade.<sup>1444</sup> Previously, in the week of 1 December 2019, Horgan also commented on the need for reform beyond the Appellate Body dispute settlement system.<sup>1445</sup>

On 14 January 2020, the trade ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union issued a joint statement where they stated that current WTO rules are "insufficient to tackle market and trade distorting subsidization existing in certain jurisdictions."<sup>1446</sup> They also stated opposition to the WTO's classification of certain countries as developing countries.<sup>1447</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the European Union was a signatory to a proposal to start the process of filling the vacant seats on the Appellate Body.<sup>1448</sup> The call to fill the six vacant seats was a show of commitment to address the impasse regarding appointments to the Appellate Body of the WTO.<sup>1449</sup>

On 24 January 2020, the European Union and 16 other countries agreed to a multi-party interim arrangement that will be based on Article 25 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding.<sup>1450</sup> It establishes a two-step dispute settlement system for the parties involved as a contingency measure until the impasse of the Appellate Body is over, serving as an ad-hoc solution.<sup>1451</sup>

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<sup>1442</sup> WTO members discuss product quality, safety and standards, debate new trade concerns, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news19\\_e/tbt\\_16nov19\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news19_e/tbt_16nov19_e.htm)

<sup>1443</sup> WTO chief: 'Months' needed to fix disputes body, BBC News 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50736344>

<sup>1444</sup> WTO chief: 'Months' needed to fix disputes body, BBC News 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50736344>

<sup>1445</sup> US trade offensive takes out WTO as global referee, RTE 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://www.rte.ie/news/business/2019/12/10/1098247-world-trade-organization/>

<sup>1446</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

<sup>1447</sup> Joint Statement of the Trilateral Meeting of the Trade Ministers of Japan, the United States and the European Union, Office of the United States Trade Representative (Washington) 14 January 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://ustr.gov/about-us/policy-offices/press-office/press-releases/2020/january/joint-statement-trilateral-meeting-trade-ministers-japan-united-states-and-european-union>

<sup>1448</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1449</sup> Appellate Body Appointments, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE\\_Search/FE\\_S\\_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True](https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=260555,260554,259466,259467&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=0&FullTextHash=&HasEnglishRecord=True&HasFrenchRecord=True&HasSpanishRecord=True)

<sup>1450</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

<sup>1451</sup> Trade: EU and 16 WTO members agree to work together on an interim appeal arbitration arrangement, European Commission (Brussels) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_113](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_113)

On 27 March 2020, the EU and 15 other members of WTO created an arrangement surrounding trade dispute contingency appeals.<sup>1452</sup> This was described to be a measure aiming to remove the current stagnation of the WTO when dealing with trade disputes.<sup>1453</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the EU made a cumulative donation of EUR2 million to help support the trading capacity of developing countries.<sup>1454</sup> This shows a want to improve the trading functions of other states and improvement of trade worldwide.

On 24 July 2020, the European Union's "Airbus Member States" officially agreed with and took action to render compliance with the WTO's ruling on the Airbus case.<sup>1455</sup> This action shows a reinforcement of the WTO's work and appreciation of the settlement process.

On 24 July 2020, a call was made by the EU to enact higher transparency with trade and the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>1456</sup> The call was issued in the form of a joint communication and supported by ten other WTO members.<sup>1457</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the multi-party interim appeal arrangement was deemed 'operational', with arbitrators being selected and reported to the WTO.<sup>1458</sup> Although a temporary solution, the EU's participation in the arrangement shows they recognize the importance of an effective appeal structure.<sup>1459</sup>

On 28 August 2020, the EU was reported to have appealed the panel report "European Union — Cost Adjustment Methodologies and Certain Anti-Dumping Measures on Imports from Russia —

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<sup>1452</sup> EU and 15 World Trade Organization members establish contingency appeal arrangement for trade disputes, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2127>

<sup>1453</sup> EU and 15 World Trade Organization members establish contingency appeal arrangement for trade disputes, European Commission (Brussels) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2127>

<sup>1454</sup> EU donates EUR 2 million to enhance developing countries' trading capacity, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/pres20\\_e/pr859\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/pres20_e/pr859_e.htm)

<sup>1455</sup> EU and Airbus Member States take action to ensure full compliance in the WTO aircraft dispute, European Commission (Brussels) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1405](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1405)

<sup>1456</sup> WTO - European Union calls for more transparency on Coronavirus trade-related measures by WTO members, International Trade Compliance Update European Commission (Chicago) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

<https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/07/24/wto-european-union-calls-for-more-transparency-on-coronavirus-trade-related-measures-by-wto-members/>

<sup>1457</sup> WTO - European Union calls for more transparency on Coronavirus trade-related measures by WTO members, International Trade Compliance Update European Commission (Chicago) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 9 August 2020.

<https://www.internationaltradecomplianceupdate.com/2020/07/24/wto-european-union-calls-for-more-transparency-on-coronavirus-trade-related-measures-by-wto-members/>

<sup>1458</sup> The WTO multi-party interim appeal arrangement gets operational, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2176>

<sup>1459</sup> The WTO multi-party interim appeal arrangement gets operational, European Commission (Brussels) 3 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=2176>

Second complaint.”<sup>1460</sup> Given the lack of an Appellate Body, the appeal is unable to be considered at time of writing.<sup>1461</sup>

On 28 August 2020, a dispute panel request was approved and established by the WTO to investigate a conflict between Turkey and the European Union, following its failure to be established earlier in the year.<sup>1462</sup> However, the EU disputes wrongdoing and believes their actions to be within WTO guidelines.<sup>1463</sup>

On 22 September 2020, the Committee on Regional Trade Agreements of the WTO considered a regional trade agreement between the EU and Armenia.<sup>1464</sup> This demonstrates an understanding of the WTO’s processes and a willingness to see procedure fulfilled.

The European Union has acted in participating in addressing problems with the existing Dispute Settlement System, reinforcing the existing work of the WTO, and actively participating in the negotiations surrounding the reform of WTO functions.

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

*Analyst: Fiona Reuter*

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<sup>1460</sup> EU appeals panel report on EU methodologies, duties on Russian imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/ds494apl\\_28aug20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds494apl_28aug20_e.htm)

<sup>1461</sup> EU appeals panel report on EU methodologies, duties on Russian imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/ds494apl\\_28aug20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/ds494apl_28aug20_e.htm)

<sup>1462</sup> Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_28aug20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm)

<sup>1463</sup> Panel established to review EU safeguard measures on steel imports, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 28 August 2020, Access Date: 25 September 2020. [https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/dsb\\_28aug20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/dsb_28aug20_e.htm)

<sup>1464</sup> WTO members consider EU-Armenia, MERCOSUR-Israel trade agreements, World Trade Organization (Geneva) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

[https://www.wto.org/english/news\\_e/news20\\_e/rta\\_23sep20\\_e.htm](https://www.wto.org/english/news_e/news20_e/rta_23sep20_e.htm)

## 5. Infrastructure: Quality Infrastructure Investment

“We endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as our common strategic direction and high aspiration.”

*G20 2019 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	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			+1
Japan		0	
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

### Background

Infrastructure is a fundamental component of achieving sustainable economic growth, stability and prosperity, as well as solving social challenges. However, funding for infrastructure is currently outpaced by growing needs in both developing and developed countries, presenting a significant challenge in achieving global and national development goals. In 2013, it was estimated that an annual USD 3.3 trillion investment was needed simply to keep pace with projected growth between 2016 to 2030, USD 0.8 trillion more than the USD 2.5 trillion spent currently.<sup>1465</sup>

This infrastructure financing gap threatens future socioeconomic development and fulfilling it is essential to the goals of the G20. Nonetheless, according to the McKinsey Global Institute by 2016 11 G20 members had reduced their infrastructure spending (as a share of gross domestic product) since the global financial crisis due to fiscal constraints.<sup>1466</sup> At a February 2013 meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and

<sup>1465</sup> Bridging Global Infrastructure Gaps, McKinsey Global Institute (Online). Access Date: December 10, 2019. <https://www.un.org/pga/71/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2017/06/Bridging-Global-Infrastructure-Gaps-Full-report-June-2016.pdf>

<sup>1466</sup> Bridging Global Infrastructure Gaps, McKinsey Global Institute (Online). Access Date: December 10, 2019. <https://www.un.org/pga/71/wp-content/uploads/sites/40/2017/06/Bridging-Global-Infrastructure-Gaps-Full-report-June-2016.pdf>

Development (OECD) advocated for the prioritization of infrastructure investment by the G20 members and presented private financing and institutional investors as alternative sources of infrastructure funds.<sup>1467</sup> In response, a G20 Study Group on Financing Investment, made up of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and select members of the OECD, was formed and tasked with putting forward recommendations for G20 leaders.<sup>1468</sup>

G20 members endorsed these recommendations in the form of the G20/OECD High-Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors at the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, thereby making their first commitments to infrastructure investment.<sup>1469</sup>

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members endorsed the Global Infrastructure Initiative, a work program with common leading practices to improve the quality of public and private infrastructure investments, as well as the creation of the Global Infrastructure Hub to foster collaboration amongst stakeholders of the Initiative. The Study Group on Financing for Investment was also transformed into an official Infrastructure Investment Working Group.<sup>1470</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 members developed country-specific strategies to boost investment; developed guidelines for public-private-partnership models to improve investment preparation, prioritization and execution processes; and looked into alternative financing structures for infrastructure projects.<sup>1471</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to promote infrastructure investment in both quantity and quality. Members emphasized that quality infrastructure investment and infrastructure connectivity were two key features of sustainable and prosperous development.<sup>1472</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to boosting infrastructure and connectivity investment and the Multilateral Development Banks' Joint Principles and Ambitions on Crowding-In Private Finance as part of this commitment.<sup>1473</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to attracting private capital to address the infrastructure financing gap and endorsed both the Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class and the G20 Principles for the Infrastructure Project Preparation Phase.<sup>1474</sup>

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<sup>1467</sup> The Role of Banks, Equity Markets and Institutional Investors in Long-Term Financing for Growth and Development, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris). Access date: 20 November 2019.

<http://www.oecd.org/daf/fin/privatepensions/G20reportLTFinancingForGrowthRussianPresidency2013.pdf>

<sup>1468</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration (St. Petersburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019.

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

<sup>1469</sup> G20/OECD High Level Principles on Long-Term Investment Financing by Institutional Investors, OECD (Paris). Access date: 20 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/finance/private-pensions/G20-OECD-Principles-LTI-Financing.pdf>

<sup>1470</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué, Brisbane Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019.

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/brisbane\\_g20\\_leaders\\_summit\\_communique.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/brisbane_g20_leaders_summit_communique.pdf)

<sup>1471</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué (Antalya), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2015antalya.html>

<sup>1472</sup> G20 Leaders' Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date 20 November 2019.

<http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communicue.html>

<sup>1473</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1474</sup> The G20 Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class, OECD (Paris) 2018. Access Date: 20 November 2019.

[http://www.oecd.org/g20/roadmap\\_to\\_infrastructure\\_as\\_an\\_asset\\_class\\_argentina\\_presidency\\_1\\_0.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/g20/roadmap_to_infrastructure_as_an_asset_class_argentina_presidency_1_0.pdf)



Members also expressed hope in making progress on quality infrastructure in 2019, in line with the Roadmap.<sup>1475</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members renewed their emphasis on quality infrastructure investment by endorsing the G20 Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment.<sup>1476</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

G20 members have committed to endorsing the “G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as [their] common strategic direction and high aspirations.” “Endorse” is interpreted to mean that the G20 members have committed to put the principles into practice through their actions.

The G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment consists of six principles to build upon previous G20 members’ work to mobilize investment financing from multiple sources and “contribute to closing the infrastructure gap, develop infrastructure as an asset class, and maximizing the positive impacts of infrastructure investment according to country conditions.”<sup>1477</sup> The focus of this document is to improve the quality of new projects so that existing funding is spent wisely, thus mobilizing future investments. This commitment requires members to align individual infrastructure projects (and initiatives in the case of principle six) with the principles outlined in the document.<sup>1478</sup>

The six principles endorsed by G20 members are: 1) maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development; 2) raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost; 3) integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments; 4) building resilience against natural disasters and other risks; 5) integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment; and 6) strengthening infrastructure governance.

The first principle requires that the expected “economic, environmental, social, and development” benefits of infrastructure be incorporated in the project planning and design stages of an individual infrastructure project. This could mean that additional jobs are created, or new technologies are introduced to a region through the course of an infrastructure project execution.<sup>1479</sup>

The second principle requires members to assess the life-cycle costs and benefits and proactively integrate strategies and technology to address the risk of delays and excessive costs in order to maximize efficiency through the course of an infrastructure project execution. This could be through integrating technology-assisted monitoring into the project process or conducting regular cost-benefit analysis.<sup>1480</sup>

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<sup>1475</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1476</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>1477</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1478</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1479</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1480</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

The third principle requires that environmental considerations, including both positive and negative impacts of the infrastructure project, should be continuously assessed and shared with stakeholder throughout the project life-cycle.<sup>1481</sup>

The fourth principle requires that disaster risk management and/or insurance mechanisms be incorporated into the planning and design of infrastructure projects. This could be through the use of certain materials or construction techniques that are more resilient to disaster.<sup>1482</sup>

The fifth principle requires that ensuring economic and social inclusion are an important element of an infrastructure project. This could be through actions such as holding consultation processes with affected communities or ensuring safe, equal working opportunities and access to jobs created by the infrastructure project.<sup>1483</sup>

The sixth and final principle requires that members enact “clear rules, robust institutions, and good governance in the public and the private sector, reflecting countries’ relevant international commitments, which will mitigate various risks related to investment decision-making.” This could be the creation of new processes, policies or institutions that assess financial sustainability, anti-corruption efforts, or transparency in infrastructure projects to ensure confidence from investors and other stakeholders.<sup>1484</sup>

Compliance for this commitment will be assessed by examining whether national or regional individual infrastructure projects incorporate any of the six principles. Full compliance for this commitment requires that a G20 member to invest in existing or new infrastructure projects that follow at least four of the six principles. Investments in existing or new infrastructure projects that align with only two to three of the six principles will be counted as partial compliance. Finally, investments in existing or new infrastructure projects that follow only one or none of the six principles outlined in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment will earn the G20 member a score of no compliance.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has invested in existing or new infrastructure projects that align with ONE or NONE of the principles outlined in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.
0	G20 member has invested in existing or new infrastructure projects that align with some (TWO to THREE) of the principles outlined in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.
+1	G20 member has invested in existing or new infrastructure projects that align with most (FOUR to SIX) of the principles outlined in the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.

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Lead Analysts: Sophia Bai*

<sup>1481</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1482</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1483</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

<sup>1484</sup> G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, Global Infrastructure Hub. Access Date: 11 December 2019. [https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international\\_policy/convention/g20/annex6\\_1.pdf](https://www.mof.go.jp/english/international_policy/convention/g20/annex6_1.pdf)

## **Argentina: +1**

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 12 July 2019, the Government Agroindustry initiated ARS17 million to Cordoba Road Consortiums to improve roads in rural San José de la Dormida y Jesús María.<sup>1485</sup> The funding comes from the Natural Fund for Agricultural Emergencies and Disasters and will be used to mitigate the effects of the latest floods and allow better quality roads in the region's productive sector.<sup>1486</sup>

On 16 July 2019, the Secretary of Urban Infrastructure inaugurated the works that are a part of fully modernizing the neighbourhood of 31 Julio.<sup>1487</sup> The Government initiated AR250 million to expand the water network, 60 blocks of gutter cord, and the installation of the third stage of water drains.<sup>1488</sup>

On 25 July 2019, the Secretary of the Environment and Sustainable Development announced a collaboration agreement with the municipality of Pinamar related to sustainable development.<sup>1489</sup> The government aims to help the municipality with its sustainable development plan which covers 1) renewable energy and energy efficiency; 2) sustainable tourism; 3) afforestation and municipal nursery; 4) urban solid waste and used vegetable oil management; and 5) access to public information, transparency and Open Government for infrastructure development.<sup>1490</sup>

On 12 August 2019, the Secretary of Housing participated in the awards ceremony for the first National Contest "Preliminary Project for Sustainable Housing of Social Interest" promoted by the Municipality of Villa María and the Municipal Institute of Housing and Housing Infrastructure of that municipality.<sup>1491</sup> The goal of this even was to promote proposals of single-family housing that demonstrate high levels of sustainability efficiency, as well as "almost zero energy" buildings.<sup>1492</sup> This

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<sup>1485</sup> Agroindustria destina más de \$17 millones a Consorcios Camineros de Córdoba para mejorar los caminos rurales, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Buenos Aires) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-destina-mas-de-17-millones-consorcios-camineros-de-cordoba-para-mejorar-los>.

<sup>1486</sup> Agroindustria destina más de \$17 millones a Consorcios Camineros de Córdoba para mejorar los caminos rurales, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Buenos Aires) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/agroindustria-destina-mas-de-17-millones-consorcios-camineros-de-cordoba-para-mejorar-los>.

<sup>1487</sup> En Saladillo, finalizaron las obras de agua potable, desagües y espacios comunitarios para 1.700 familias, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-saladillo-finalizaron-las-obras-de-agua-potable-desagues-y-espacios-comunitarios-para>.

<sup>1488</sup> En Saladillo, finalizaron las obras de agua potable, desagües y espacios comunitarios para 1.700 familias, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-saladillo-finalizaron-las-obras-de-agua-potable-desagues-y-espacios-comunitarios-para>.

<sup>1489</sup> Ciudades sustentables: Pinamar reforzará acciones sustentables en el partido, Ministry of Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ciudades-sustentables-pinamar-reforzara-acciones-sustentables-en-el-partido>.

<sup>1490</sup> Ciudades sustentables: Pinamar reforzará acciones sustentables en el partido, Ministry of Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ciudades-sustentables-pinamar-reforzara-acciones-sustentables-en-el-partido>.

<sup>1491</sup> Se realizó el primer concurso nacional para la elaboración de proyectos de vivienda sustentable, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 12 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-el-primer-concurso-nacional-para-la-elaboracion-de-proyectos-de-vivienda>.

<sup>1492</sup> Se realizó el primer concurso nacional para la elaboración de proyectos de vivienda sustentable, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 12 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-el-primer-concurso-nacional-para-la-elaboracion-de-proyectos-de-vivienda>.

action aims to promote the development of these projects and an environmental efficiency mindset.<sup>1493</sup>

On 28 August 2019, the Secretary of the Government of Environment and Sustainable Development led the presentation of project ARG/19/G24.<sup>1494</sup> This project seeks to improve biodiversity and land degradation by “through the development of a system of policies, governance mechanisms, and technical, economic and financial instruments for the environmental management of the territory, in order to integrate environmental and socio-economic assessment of ecosystem goods and services into decision-making in different sectors and levels of government.”<sup>1495</sup>

On 12 September 2019, the Ministry of Territorial Planning and Public Works announced the delivery of new technological equipment to the municipality of Juárez Celman, and many others, under the Institutional Strengthening Program for Territorial Planning to improve municipal planning functions. The financing of this project corresponds with the 2030 Sustainable Development strategy proposed by the United Nations.<sup>1496</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Ministry of Interior and Public Works announced a new recognition labelled “The Seal of Sustainable Housing.” The aim of this seal is to promote sustainable housing construction with the objective of ensuring quality and durable housing that generates economic savings for buyers while contributing to the care of the environment and mitigation of climate change.<sup>1497</sup>

On 5 December 2019, the Matanza Riachuelo Basin Authority, operated by the Ministry of Interior and Public Works, awarded the municipalities of Esteban Echeverría, Lanús, Lomas de Zamora, Merlo, Ezeiza and the City of Buenos Aires with new collection trucks. The objective of these new collection trucks is to strengthen the solid waste cleaning tasks in the area, thus contributing to waste collection efficiency and minimizing the environmental impact.<sup>1498</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the Ministry of Interior and Public Works announced the inauguration of new border checkpoint cabins in the sector of the Posadas-Encarnacion. The Ministry initiated an

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<sup>1493</sup> Se realizó el primer concurso nacional para la elaboración de proyectos de vivienda sustentable, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 12 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-el-primer-concurso-nacional-para-la-elaboracion-de-proyectos-de-vivienda>.

<sup>1494</sup> Ambiente dio inicio al proyecto de ordenamiento ambiental del territorio, Ministry of Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-dio-inicio-al-proyecto-de-ordenamiento-ambiental-del-territorio>.

<sup>1495</sup> Ambiente dio inicio al proyecto de ordenamiento ambiental del territorio, Ministry of Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-dio-inicio-al-proyecto-de-ordenamiento-ambiental-del-territorio>.

<sup>1496</sup> Nuevo equipamiento tecnológico para municipios bonaerenses, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nuevo-equipamiento-tecnologico-para-municipios-bonaerenses>.

<sup>1497</sup> Nuevo Sello de Vivienda Sustentable, Ministry of the Interior Works (Buenos Aires) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nuevo-sello-de-vivienda-sustentable>.

<sup>1498</sup> ACUMAR entregó camiones recolectores a municipios de la Cuenca Matanza Riachuelo, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 5 December 2019. Access Date 2 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acumar-entrego-camiones-recolectores-municipios-de-la-cuenca-matanza-riachuelo>.

investment of more than ARS100 million with the aim that the cabins will provide greater efficiency for those wanting to travel across the border for commercial or tourism purposes.<sup>1499</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat initiated ARS17 billion over two years to integrate popular neighbourhoods. The sum allocated includes an ARS135 million investment to improve the living conditions of those who live in the neighbourhoods, such as improving connectivity, access to water and creating community spaces.<sup>1500</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the Secretary of Provinces of the Ministry of Interior signed an agreement with the Governor of Chaco to allocate ARS600 million to the re-functionalization of land access to the port of Barranqueras. The agreement includes actions to ensure equitable access to telecommunications services, the construction of social infrastructure works in different locations, and the inauguration of a former firing range in Resistance to enhance housing, economic and productive integration throughout the jurisdiction.<sup>1501</sup>

On 9 September 2020, Secretary Batakis, Undersecretary of Policies for Development with Regional Equity Martin Pollera, and Minister of Interior Wado de Pedro met with national director of Productive Institutional Development of the Ministry of Productive Development Natalia del Cogliano and officials of the La Rioja government.<sup>1502</sup> The meeting discussed projects and proposals that will develop the La Rioja provincial economy in areas of infrastructure, energy, transportation and production, such as wind, solar and small hydraulic energy projects, and the development of the software, textile and agricultural production industries.<sup>1503</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Ministry of the Interior made a statement on the 2021 Budget.<sup>1504</sup> He said that the 2021 Budget “has a deep federal, sovereign and inclusion criteria... [that] aims to lay the foundations of an infrastructure that boosts production and creates jobs.”<sup>1505</sup> It focuses on

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<sup>1499</sup> Obras para mejorar el paso fronterizo Posadas-Encarnacion, un cambio importante para la ciudad, el turismo, y el comercio, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/obras-para-mejorar-el-paso-fronterizo-posadas-encarnacion-un-cambio-importante-para-la>.

<sup>1500</sup> El Gobierno nacional invertirá \$17 mil millones en dos años para la integración de barrios populares, Ministry of Territorial Development and Habitat (Buenos Aires) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-invertira-17-mil-millones-en-dos-anos-para-la-integracion-de-barrios/>

<sup>1501</sup> El Ministerio del Interior firmó acuerdo con Chaco por 600 millones para el Puerto de Barranqueras, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-del-interior-firmo-acuerdo-con-chaco-por-600-millones-para-el-puerto-de>

<sup>1502</sup> The Ministry of the Interior advanced with La Rioja in projects for productive development, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-del-interior-avanzo-con-la-rioja-en-proyectos-para-el-desarrollo-productivo>

<sup>1503</sup> The Ministry of the Interior advanced with La Rioja in projects for productive development, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-del-interior-avanzo-con-la-rioja-en-proyectos-para-el-desarrollo-productivo>

<sup>1504</sup> Wado de Pedro: “The 2021 Budget has a deep federal, sovereign and inclusive criteria”, Ministry of Interior (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-el-presupuesto-2021-tiene-un-profundo-criterio-federal-soberano-y-de>

<sup>1505</sup> Wado de Pedro: “The 2021 Budget has a deep federal, sovereign and inclusive criteria”, Ministry of Interior (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-el-presupuesto-2021-tiene-un-profundo-criterio-federal-soberano-y-de>

“Argentina Reconstruction” through prioritizing “the revelation of the scientific-technological system, to promote innovation and development, and active inclusion policies.”<sup>1506</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Secretary Batakis met with Buenos Aires ministers to discuss joint plans and projects for developing the Buenos Aires economy and production. Several projects were reviewed that would generate employment and instigate development, including infrastructure projects, modern industries, green technologies, and the reactivation of construction through tax incentives and use of unproductive land.<sup>1507</sup>

On 2 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior concluded a round of technical meetings with officials from all 23 provinces and the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires.<sup>1508</sup> The meetings discussed several projects to advance the economic, productive and social development of the provinces, such as the strengthening of the agri-food value chains, the integration of links to industrialize primary products, and the promotion of new sectors including the knowledge industry, as well as other projects.<sup>1509</sup> A total of 1,069 projects were discussed that are worth investments of USD32,529.<sup>1510</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior signed an agreement with Riojan governor Ricardo Quintela whereby the La Rioja province will receive a non-reimbursable loan for ARS240 million.<sup>1511</sup> The Ministry of the Interior announced this was part of Argentina’s strategy “to provide the provinces with tools so that they can carry out long-term structural transformation in an integrated manner.”<sup>1512</sup> La Rioja will focus on promoting productive development, strengthening the cadastral system and improving tax collection.<sup>1513</sup>

On 8 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior signed an agreement with the mayor of La Matanza, Fernando Espinoza, whereby the municipality will receive a non-reimbursable loan of ARS80

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<sup>1506</sup> Wado de Pedro: “The 2021 Budget has a deep federal, sovereign and inclusive criteria”, Ministry of Interior (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/wado-de-pedro-el-presupuesto-2021-tiene-un-profundo-criterio-federal-soberano-y-de>

<sup>1507</sup> The Ministry of the Interior made progress with the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires on the development agenda, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-del-interior-avanzo-con-la-ciudad-autonoma-de-buenos-aires-en-la-agenda-para>

<sup>1508</sup> Interior completed the meetings of technical tables with the 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires in September, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/interior-completo-en-septiembre-los-encuentros-de-mesas-tecnicas-con-las-23-provincias-y-la>

<sup>1509</sup> Interior completed the meetings of technical tables with the 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires in September, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/interior-completo-en-septiembre-los-encuentros-de-mesas-tecnicas-con-las-23-provincias-y-la>

<sup>1510</sup> Interior completed the meetings of technical tables with the 23 provinces and the City of Buenos Aires in September, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/interior-completo-en-septiembre-los-encuentros-de-mesas-tecnicas-con-las-23-provincias-y-la>

<sup>1511</sup> The national government will assist La Rioja with 240 million pesos, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asistira-la-rioja-con-240-millones-de-pesos>

<sup>1512</sup> The national government will assist La Rioja with 240 million pesos, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asistira-la-rioja-con-240-millones-de-pesos>

<sup>1513</sup> The national government will assist La Rioja with 240 million pesos, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asistira-la-rioja-con-240-millones-de-pesos>

million.<sup>1514</sup> This loan will support La Matanza, which is the capital of the national industry, in the fight against the pandemic.<sup>1515</sup>

On 10 October 2020, the Ministry of the Interior, through the National Registry of Persons, met with provincial officials to continue the pilot implementation of the Federal Digital Platform for the Generation of Vital Facts Certificates.<sup>1516</sup> The Platform will strengthen infrastructure governance by medically verifying births and deaths which will contribute to public health statistics, “prevent retirees from showing up 4 times a year by reducing 28 million face-to-face procedures; guarantee the right to identity, minimizing non-registrations or undocumented immigrants and guaranteeing access to essential rights, such as birth and pensions; [and] register in an agile and secure way the life events of citizens.”<sup>1517</sup>

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment by acting in five of the six commitment areas, such as encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, integrating environmental considerations, strengthening infrastructure governance and building resilience against natural disasters and other risk.

Thus, Argentina has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Isabel Davis*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 2 July 2019, Infrastructure Australia approved AUD2 billion of upgrades to Queensland motorways and added the project to the Infrastructure Priority List (a list of nationally significant projects for both short- and long-term future). The upgrades are in response to a growing population putting a strain on the current infrastructure and will improve road safety, decrease travel time and support economic development.<sup>1518</sup>

On 8 July 2019, the Infrastructure Priority List was expanded to include an AUD300 million proposal to build new campuses for the University of Tasmania.<sup>1519</sup> This investment will create

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<sup>1514</sup> The national government will assist La Matanza with 80 million pesos to face the pandemic, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asistira-la-matanza-con-80-millones-de-pesos-para-enfrentar-la>

<sup>1515</sup> The national government will assist La Matanza with 80 million pesos to face the pandemic, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-asistira-la-matanza-con-80-millones-de-pesos-para-enfrentar-la>

<sup>1516</sup> The Renaper carried out new rounds of presentation of the digital certificate of vital events with provincial officials, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 10 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-renaper-realizo-nuevas-rondas-de-presentacion-del-certificado-digital-de-hechos-vitales>

<sup>1517</sup> The Renaper carried out new rounds of presentation of the digital certificate of vital events with provincial officials, Ministry of the Interior (Buenos Aires) 10 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-renaper-realizo-nuevas-rondas-de-presentacion-del-certificado-digital-de-hechos-vitales>

<sup>1518</sup> Infrastructure Australia green lights \$2 billion in Queensland, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-green-lights-2-billion-queensland-road-upgrades>.

<sup>1519</sup> New UTs campuses for Burnie and Launceston a national priority, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/new-utas-campus-burnie-and-launceston-national-priority>.

world-class campuses that will be able to deliver a new array of courses to meet the needs of modern industry.<sup>1520</sup>

On 10 September 2019, Infrastructure Australia approved the proposal of the New South Wales (NSW) Government to build a four-lane bridge on the Princes Highway over the Shoalhaven River.<sup>1521</sup> This project was officially added to the Infrastructure Priority List as it will allow for greater freight transportation from Sydney to NSW, improve the general traffic movement and travel times and increase safety for motorists.<sup>1522</sup>

On 8 January 2020, the Queensland Government's Peak Downs Highway Realignment Project was added to the Infrastructure Priority List to strategically enhance the economies of Mackay and Queensland.<sup>1523</sup> The project will be designed to handle the very heavy loads diverted away from Walkerston's main street improved freight efficiency and increasing the safety of the locals.<sup>1524</sup>

On 8 January 2020, the Western Australian government's Bindoon Bypass road upgrade project was welcomed to the Infrastructure Priority List due to urgent need to process more freight using the Great Northern Highway.<sup>1525</sup> The 61.6 kilometres of new highway, 4.4 kilometres of current infrastructure improvements and 12km of service roads will greatly improve the efficiency and safety of truck trips.<sup>1526</sup>

On 26 February 2020, Infrastructure Australia unveiled the 2020 Infrastructure Priority List, including 147 proposals which are deemed to reflect Australia's diversity, the future of the nation's needs and to be of national significance.<sup>1527</sup> The Infrastructure Priority List will focus on road maintenance, addressing the growing waste problem, and coastal inundation, thus maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure building resiliency, increasing safety of citizens and strengthening infrastructure governance.<sup>1528</sup>

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<sup>1520</sup> CEO's Update, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 22 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020.

<https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/newsletter/ceos-update-1>.

<sup>1521</sup> Infrastructure Australia approves Nowra Bridge Project, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 10 September 2019.

Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-approves-nowra-bridge-project>.

<sup>1522</sup> Infrastructure Australia approves Nowra Bridge Project, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 10 September 2019.

Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-approves-nowra-bridge-project>.

<sup>1523</sup> Walkerston Bypass gets priority nod from Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 8 January 2020.

Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/walkerston-bypass-gets-priority-nod-infrastructure-australia>.

<sup>1524</sup> Walkerston Bypass gets priority nod from Infrastructure Australia, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 8 January 2020.

Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/walkerston-bypass-gets-priority-nod-infrastructure-australia>.

<sup>1525</sup> Infrastructure Australia recognises Bindoon Bypass as a priority investment, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-recognises-bindoon-bypass-priority-investment>.

<sup>1526</sup> Infrastructure Australia recognises Bindoon Bypass as a priority investment, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-recognises-bindoon-bypass-priority-investment>.

<sup>1527</sup> Call to action for infrastructure resilience, as water, waste and coastal inundation headline latest Infrastructure Priority List, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 2 August 2020.

<https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/february-2020-infrastructure-priority-list>.

<sup>1528</sup> Call to action for infrastructure resilience, as water, waste and coastal inundation headline latest Infrastructure Priority List, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 2 August 2020.

<https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/february-2020-infrastructure-priority-list>



On 29 April 2020, Infrastructure Australia announced that the Cabramatta Passing Loop and Port Botany Rail Line Duplication projects would be added to the Infrastructure Priority List.<sup>1529</sup> Port Botany is a critical international gateway for Sydney and New South Wales, handling 99 per cent of container demand. The rail line duplication should prevent bottlenecks and reduce the strain on the Sydney road network ensuring future economic prosperity.<sup>1530</sup>

On 3 May 2020, Infrastructure Australia expanded the Infrastructure Priority List to include both the METRONET High Capacity Signalling Project and the Morley-Ellenbrook Line Project.<sup>1531</sup> The METRONET program, which would grow Perth's rail network from 178 kilometres of rail with 71 stations, to 250 kilometres and 89 stations, will help accommodate Perth's population growth and should encourage increased use of public transport.<sup>1532</sup>

On 27 May 2020, Infrastructure Australia launched its first Reconciliation Action Plan.<sup>1533</sup> The plan outlines the organization's commitment to strengthen its knowledge in areas that affect the life of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, enhance partnerships and enable staff to take steps towards reconciliation, thereby strengthening its infrastructure governance.<sup>1534</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1535</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1536</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1537</sup>

On 5 August 2020, Infrastructure Australia announced an updated 2020 Infrastructure Priority List.<sup>1538</sup> It details 155 infrastructure proposals of national significance and showcases the extent of

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<sup>1529</sup> Port Botany Rail Line Duplication and Cabramatta Passing Loop approved as a priority project (Sydney) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/port-botany-rail-line-duplication-and-cabramatta-passing-loop-approved-priority-project>

<sup>1530</sup> Port Botany Rail Line Duplication and Cabramatta Passing Loop approved as a priority project (Sydney) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/port-botany-rail-line-duplication-and-cabramatta-passing-loop-approved-priority-project>

<sup>1531</sup> Infrastructure Australia adds two more METRONET projects to the Infrastructure Priority List (Sydney) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-adds-two-more-metronet-projects-infrastructure-priority-list>

<sup>1532</sup> Infrastructure Australia adds two more METRONET projects to the Infrastructure Priority List (Sydney) 4 May 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/infrastructure-australia-adds-two-more-metronet-projects-infrastructure-priority-list>

<sup>1533</sup> Infrastructure Australia launches Reconciliation Action Plan (Sydney) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.roadsonline.com.au/infrastructure-australia-launches-reconciliation-action-plan/>

<sup>1534</sup> Infrastructure Australia launches Reconciliation Action Plan (Sydney) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.roadsonline.com.au/infrastructure-australia-launches-reconciliation-action-plan/>

<sup>1535</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1536</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1537</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1538</sup> Infrastructure Australia launches a refreshed infrastructure pipeline now worth more than \$64 billion (Sydney) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/mid\\_year\\_ipi\\_august\\_2020](https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/mid_year_ipi_august_2020)

planned investment, worth over AUD64 billion. This increased investment is intended to ensure that Australia's economy continues to grow, create jobs and attract investment.<sup>1539</sup>

On 22 September 2020, Infrastructure Australia added the construction of Parkes Bypass on the New South Wales Newell Highway and the upgrade of Canberra's Commonwealth Avenue Bridge, to the Infrastructure Priority List.<sup>1540</sup> These are designated as Priority Projects to support the national COVID-19 recovery. The AUD175 million Parkes Bypass project includes the construction of a 10.5-kilometre bypass alongside the Newell Highway, upgrades to local roads and connections to the Parkes Special Activation Precinct which would help remove heavy traffic. The AUD127.4 million upgrades to Commonwealth Avenue Bridge will improve its safety, accommodate the increasing number of users and extend its life by 50 years.<sup>1541</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Australia met with India, the US, and Japan for a virtual Quad meeting to discuss efforts to improve the Indo-Pacific region.<sup>1542</sup> One of the topics discussed was "quality infrastructure based upon international best practices, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment."<sup>1543</sup>

On 6 October 2020, Australia released the 2020-21 Federal Budget, which provides "one of the largest boosts to infrastructure investment in recent times."<sup>1544</sup> "The funding provides a staged and proportionate response that balances investment in smaller projects that can deliver stimulus quickly, while continuing to invest in the larger, productivity-enhancing projects that will strengthen the resilience of the economy to further shocks in the long-run...[and] provided funding for Infrastructure Australia's policy research that will support the critical need...for quality infrastructure decision-making and reform over the next 15 years."<sup>1545</sup> This funding includes AUD14 billion for new infrastructure projects that will create 14,000 jobs, AUD2 billion for a road safety program, AUD2 billion in new funding for water infrastructure, and AUD250 million to modernize recycling infrastructure.<sup>1546</sup>

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration. Australia is maximizing the impact of its new infrastructure with actions in line with four principles: encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, building resiliency against disaster and strengthening infrastructure governance.

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<sup>1539</sup> Infrastructure Australia launches a refreshed infrastructure pipeline now worth more than \$64 billion (Sydney) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/mid\\_year\\_ipi\\_august\\_2020](https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/mid_year_ipi_august_2020)

<sup>1540</sup> Parkes Bypass and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge named Priority Projects in infrastructure-led recovery (Sydney) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/parkes-bypass-and-commonwealth-avenue-bridge-named-priority-projects-infrastructure-led-recovery>

<sup>1541</sup> Parkes Bypass and Commonwealth Avenue Bridge named Priority Projects in infrastructure-led recovery (Sydney) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/media-release/parkes-bypass-and-commonwealth-avenue-bridge-named-priority-projects-infrastructure-led-recovery>

<sup>1542</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations ("The Quad"), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1543</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations ("The Quad"), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1544</sup> Infrastructure central to catalysing economic growth, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/newsletter/ceo-update-budget-2020>

<sup>1545</sup> Infrastructure central to catalysing economic growth, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/newsletter/ceo-update-budget-2020>

<sup>1546</sup> Infrastructure central to catalysing economic growth, Infrastructure Australia (Sydney) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.infrastructureaustralia.gov.au/listing/newsletter/ceo-update-budget-2020>

Thus, Australia has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ian Hughes*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 29 July 2019, the Brazilian Special Secretariat of the Investment Partnership Program qualified an agreement between the Caixa Econômica Federal and the French Development Agency in the Itamaraty Palace, Brasilia.<sup>1547</sup> The agreement focuses on financial support for infrastructure regarding basic sanitation, public lighting and urban mobility and capitalizes on the technical knowledge of the French Development Agency.<sup>1548</sup>

On 1 August 2019, Brazil's Investment Partnerships Program approved the construction of a new 269,000 square metres terminal in the Port of Suape.<sup>1549</sup> The construction costs are forecasted at a minimum of BRL1.2billion which will allow the renovated port to handle nearly 840,000 20-foot equivalent shipping containers per year, benefiting the Brazilian economy and creating jobs.<sup>1550</sup>

On 21 August 2019, the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Investment Partnerships Programs Council was held in Brasilia and qualified 29 new infrastructure initiatives as National Priorities.<sup>1551</sup> Highlights from the qualified initiatives include three new port terminals and environmental licensing for road section BR 158/MT and Castanheira, Telemaco Borba, Tabajara and Bem Querer Hydropower Plants, respectively. This meeting also showed a special consideration to maximizing efficiencies in planning, as well as for environmental projects.<sup>1552</sup>

On 19 November 2019, Brazil's Council of the Investment Partnerships Program qualified 18 new infrastructure initiatives as National Priorities.<sup>1553</sup> The primary takeaways from the announcement were the inclusion of 5G telecommunications networks and the first-ever inclusion of health sector initiatives which demonstrates social considerations.<sup>1554</sup>

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<sup>1547</sup> PPI/Casa Civil participates in the signing of an international agreement, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 29 July 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/ppi-casa-civil-participa-de-assinatura-de-acordo-internacional>

<sup>1548</sup> PPI/Casa Civil participates in the signing of an international agreement, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 29 July 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/ppi-casa-civil-participa-de-assinatura-de-acordo-internacional>

<sup>1549</sup> Container terminal project approved by TCU, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/projeto-de-terminal-de-containers-e-aprovado-pelo-tcu>.

<sup>1550</sup> Container terminal project approved by TCU, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/projeto-de-terminal-de-containers-e-aprovado-pelo-tcu>.

<sup>1551</sup> Unprecedented initiatives on social areas are the highlight of the 10th meeting of the PPI Council, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/10meetingppicouncil>.

<sup>1552</sup> Unprecedented initiatives on social areas are the highlight of the 10th meeting of the PPI Council, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/10meetingppicouncil>.

<sup>1553</sup> Federal Government qualifies 18 new initiatives in the Investment Partnership Program, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/11reuniaocppi>.

<sup>1554</sup> Federal Government qualifies 18 new initiatives in the Investment Partnership Program, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/11reuniaocppi>.

On 19 December 2019, Brazil's National Land Transport Agency began the public hearing to amalgamate public contributions and suggestions for the new BR-116 Highway System contract which is expected to cost BRL17 billion.<sup>1555</sup> This project will bring what was the first federal highway in Brazil up to the highest “technological quality in Latin America.”<sup>1556</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the Sao Paulo State Government sponsored Piracicaba-Panorama Road Concession was completed, which integrated 62 Cities within Sao Paulo State through 1,273 kilometre of maintenance and new highway.<sup>1557</sup> This project, valued at USD3,397.4 million will use technology to provide frequent user discounts, is part of Brazil's Zero Carbon Program for Highway Operation and is committed to improving road safety.<sup>1558</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the Board of the Investment Partnership Program (PPI) qualified 22 new initiatives as national priorities.<sup>1559</sup> PPI Special Secretary, Martha Seillier, stated that the goal of these new initiatives was largely to create a greener PPI, hereby contributing to sustainability and integrating environmental considerations.<sup>1560</sup>

On 27 February 2020, the Tarcisio Gomes de Freitas, the Transportations Minister, signed a contract leasing the Paranaguá Container Terminal to Klabin, a paper producer and exporter, for 25 years.<sup>1561</sup> The construction of new warehouses is predicted to grow the forest industry by allowing the port to handle larger capacities of product, maximizing economic efficiency of the port.<sup>1562</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Sao Paulo State Transport Agency and Eixo SP signed the agreement for the operation of the Piracicaba-Panorama road Project.<sup>1563</sup> This project is expected to create, “seven thousand new direct and indirect jobs in the first two years of the contract,” and the 1,272 kilometres of road is the “largest road network ever tendered in Brazil.”<sup>1564</sup>

On 2 July 2020, Resolution 131/2020 recommended the inclusion of the Brasília National Park, in the Federal District, and of the São Joaquim National Park, in the State of Santa Catarina, into the

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<sup>1555</sup> Public hearing opened on the concession of BR-116 / RJ / SP, qualified in PPI / Casa Civil, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/aberta-audiencia-publica-acerca-da-concessao-da-br-116-rj-sp-qualificada-no-ppi-casa-civil>.

<sup>1556</sup> Public hearing opened on the concession of BR-116 / RJ / SP, qualified in PPI / Casa Civil, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/aberta-audiencia-publica-acerca-da-concessao-da-br-116-rj-sp-qualificada-no-ppi-casa-civil>.

<sup>1557</sup> Piracicaba-Panorama Road Concession (State of São Paulo), Global Infrastructure Hub (Sydney) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://pipeline.github.org/Project/ProjectDetails/975>.

<sup>1558</sup> Piracicaba-Panorama Road Concession (State of São Paulo), Global Infrastructure Hub (Sydney) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://pipeline.github.org/Project/ProjectDetails/975>.

<sup>1559</sup> PPI Council qualifies 22 projects as national priorities, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/12cppi>.

<sup>1560</sup> PPI Council qualifies 22 projects as national priorities, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/12cppi>.

<sup>1561</sup> Contract for pulp movement signed at the Port of Paranaguá / PR, qualified in PPI, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/assinado-contrato-para-movimentacao-de-celulose-no-porto-de-paranagua-qualificado-no-ppi>.

<sup>1562</sup> Contract for pulp movement signed at the Port of Paranaguá / PR, qualified in PPI, The Investment Partnership Program (Brasilia) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/assinado-contrato-para-movimentacao-de-celulose-no-porto-de-paranagua-qualificado-no-ppi>.

<sup>1563</sup> Largest highway concession contract signed in Brazil (Malaga) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 26 July 2020. <https://www.infrappworld.com/news/largest-highway-concession-contract-signed-in-brazil>

<sup>1564</sup> Largest highway concession contract signed in Brazil (Malaga) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 26 July 2020. <https://www.infrappworld.com/news/largest-highway-concession-contract-signed-in-brazil>

PPI.<sup>1565</sup> This will make the support, conservation, protection and management of these parks a national priority.<sup>1566</sup>

On 16 July 2020, decree 10423/2020 incorporated Porto Alegre city's Femina Hospital into the Investment Partnerships Program.<sup>1567</sup> This move will modernize the hospital to improve its ability to best serve the public, with a focus on, "constructing, installing, maintaining and operating women health services."<sup>1568</sup>

On 24 July 2020, Resolution 132/2020, recommended the incorporation of the project of Line 2 for the Belo Horizonte Metropolitan Region Metro into the PPI portfolio.<sup>1569</sup> The objective of this would be to carry out feasibility studies and assess possible partnerships with the private sector. This project, which would cost an estimated BRL1.6 billion, would expand the metro system through-line.<sup>1570</sup>

On 28 July 2020, five new Public Fishery Terminals (PFT): PFT of Aracaju, in the state of Sergipe; PFT of Natal, in the state of Rio Grande do Norte; FTP of Vitória, in the state of Espírito Santo; and the PFTs of Santos and Cananéia, in the state of São Paulo were added to the PPI.<sup>1571</sup> PFTs are vital for fishery handling, trading, processing and storage. This investment will modernize and improve the conditions to allow the development of Brazil's fishery industry.<sup>1572</sup>

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration. Brazil has acted both unilaterally and multilaterally to maximize the impact of its infrastructure. It has focused on resilience against natural disasters and implemented social considerations with a renewed focus on health sector initiatives, environmental consideration with large hydro-power construction, introduced new technologies, and benefited the economy through improved mobility and new job prospects.

Thus, Brazil has received a score of +1

*Analyst: Ilan Hughes*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

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<sup>1565</sup> Resolution recommends inclusion of National Parks of Brasília (DF) and São Joaquim (SC) in the PPI portfolio (Brasilia) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/resolution-recommends-inclusion-of-national-parks-of-brasilia-df-and-sao-joaquim-sc-in-the-ppi-portfolio>

<sup>1566</sup> Resolution recommends inclusion of National Parks of Brasília (DF) and São Joaquim (SC) in the PPI portfolio (Brasilia) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/resolution-recommends-inclusion-of-national-parks-of-brasilia-df-and-sao-joaquim-sc-in-the-ppi-portfolio>

<sup>1567</sup> Decree formalizes the qualification of Femina Hospital (RS) in PPI (Brasilia) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/decreo-formaliza-a-qualificacao-de-femina-hospital-rs-em-ppi>

<sup>1568</sup> Decree formalizes the qualification of Femina Hospital (RS) in PPI (Brasilia) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/decreo-formaliza-a-qualificacao-de-femina-hospital-rs-em-ppi>

<sup>1569</sup> Resolution recommends qualifying Line 2 of Belo Horizonte Metro in PPI (Brasilia) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/resolution-recommends-qualifying-line-2-of-belo-horizonte-metro-in-ppi>

<sup>1570</sup> Resolution recommends qualifying Line 2 of Belo Horizonte Metro in PPI (Brasilia) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/resolution-recommends-qualifying-line-2-of-belo-horizonte-metro-in-ppi>

<sup>1571</sup> Decree formalizes qualification of five public fishery terminals in the PPI (Brasilia) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/decreo-formaliza-a-qualificacao-de-cinco-terminais-publicos-de-aquicultura-em-ppi>

<sup>1572</sup> Decree formalizes qualification of five public fishery terminals in the PPI (Brasilia) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.ppi.gov.br/decreo-formaliza-a-qualificacao-de-cinco-terminais-publicos-de-aquicultura-em-ppi>

On 15 July 2019, the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB) pledged up to CAD20 million to the Township of Mapleton's water and wastewater project. The aim of the project is to provide a pilot structuring and financing model for upgrades to municipal water and wastewater projects.<sup>1573</sup>

On 1 August 2019, CIB agreed to work with the Lulu Island Energy Company on a district energy project, in line with their commitment to green infrastructure projects. The project will expand the pre-existing facilities from 330,000 square meters to 4.7 million square meters, conditional on the local government's approval.<sup>1574</sup>

On 1 August 2019, the Minister of Rural Economic Development Bernadette Jordan announced the Government of Canada will contribute CAD2.6 million to water and wastewater projects in the Municipality of the District and Lunenburg and the Town of Bridgewater as part of the Green Infrastructure Stream in the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The goal of these water and wastewater projects will be to decontaminate and upgrade wastewater facilities to support green and dynamic, healthy communities and protect the environment.<sup>1575</sup>

On 1 August 2019, Member of Parliament of Gatineau Steven MacKinnon and the Mayor of Gatineau Maxime Pedneaud-Jobin announced funding worth CAD22.5 million "to make essential improvements to the stormwater and runoff management systems in the Wabassee Creek watershed" as part of the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The goal of the project is to help mitigate the impacts of increased natural disasters due to climate change on Canadian families and businesses.<sup>1576</sup>

On 1 August 2019, Minister of Defence Harjit Sajjan announced funding worth CAD250 million towards "repairs and upgrades to...armories and training facilities over the next 5 years," CAD38 million which will be used in the upcoming fiscal year. The goal of the funding is to "increase the operational effectiveness of reserve units and regiments."<sup>1577</sup>

On 7 August 2019, the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities François-Philippe Champagne announced funding worth CAD16 million to "secure the town of Victoriaville's drinking water supply" through the Government of Canada's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. The goal of

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<sup>1573</sup> Canada Infrastructure Bank Announces up to \$20 million Investment Commitment in Mapleton Water and Wastewater Project 15/07/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 15 July 2019. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-infrastructure-bank-announces-up-to-20-million-investment-commitment-in-mapleton-water-and-wastewater-project-818217240.html>.

<sup>1574</sup> Canada Infrastructure Bank Signs Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Richmond's Lulu Island Energy Company 1/08/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-infrastructure-bank-signs-memorandum-of-understanding-with-the-city-of-richmond-s-lulu-island-energy-company-842672336.html>.

<sup>1575</sup> Residents to benefit from a soil remediation project in the Municipality of the District of Lunenburg and a wastewater upgrade project in the Town of Bridgewater 01/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://news.ontario.ca/moi/en/2020/01/guelph-residents-to-benefit-from-improved-green-public-transit-infrastructure-1.html>.

<sup>1576</sup> Better flood protection for Gatineau residents 01/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 1 August 2019. Access Date: January 27, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/better-flood-protection-for-gatineau-residents-844036326.html>.

<sup>1577</sup> Defence Department to spend \$250 million over five years on reserves for infrastructure, gear 01/08/2019, The Canadian Press (Toronto) 1 August 2019. Access Date: January 28, 2020. <https://www.thestar.com/politics/federal/2019/08/01/defence-department-to-spend-250-million-over-five-years-on-reserves-for-infrastructure-gear.html>.

the project is to reduce the impact and protect local families and businesses from droughts and forest fires, which are “worsening due to climate change.”<sup>1578</sup>

On 7 August 2019, the Canadian digital research infrastructure company CANARIE announced funding by the Government of Canada worth CAD137 million during its 2020-2024 mandate, as well as an addition CAD8 million in 2020 “to advance northern connectivity and cybersecurity initiatives.” The aim of the 2020-2024 mandate is “network evolution and initiatives that ensure Canada’s researchers and entrepreneurs realize the benefits of cloud technology, big data, and global research collaborations.”<sup>1579</sup>

On 9 August 2019, the Minister Champagne announced funding worth over CAD21.1 million towards “a new collections storage facility at the Reynolds-Alberta Museum” as part of the Government of Canada’s New Building Canada Fund — Provincial-Territorial Infrastructure Component — National and Regional Projects. The goal of the project is to “accommodate current and future artifacts and protect them from environmental elements” in an effort to promote tourism and conserve Canada’s heritage.<sup>1580</sup>

On 9 August 2019, Minister Jordan and Minister of Community Services Kelly Regan announced joint funding worth over CAD2.07 million “for the construction of a permanent timber pile wharf...in Halifax Harbour,” in addition to CAD1.6 million worth of funding by the Canadian Government towards the Georges Island National Historic Site. These projects “aim to ensure safe access to the island” and to enhance the historical and cultural attraction of Halifax Harbour.<sup>1581</sup>

On 13 August 2019, the federal government and the territorial government of the Northwest Territories pledged over CAD31.3 million to 19 strategic infrastructure investment projects across the Northwest Territories as part of various streams in the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The aim of the project is to fund waste and wastewater projects, community and cultural centers and accessible, modern infrastructure for families.<sup>1582</sup>

On 19 August 2019, Minister Champagne announced funding worth CAD6,160,000 to improve transit in Metro Vancouver as part of the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The project will include new escalators and improvements to the PA system,

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<sup>1578</sup> Increased drought protection for Victoriaville residents and businesses 07/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 7 August 2019. Access Date: January 27, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/increased-drought-protection-for-victoriaville-residents-and-businesses-891176769.html>.

<sup>1579</sup> Government of Canada invests \$137M in CANARIE to renew its mandate in 2020-2024 07/08/2019, Global Newswire (Ottawa) 7 August 2019. Access Date: January 28, 2020. <https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/08/07/1898606/0/en/Government-of-Canada-invests-137M-in-CANARIE-to-renew-its-mandate-for-2020-2024.html>.

<sup>1580</sup> Government of Canada supports expansion of Reynold’s-Alberta Museum Collections Facility in East Wetaskiwin 09/08/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-expansion-of-reynolds-alberta-museum-collections-facility-in-east-wetaskiwin-838689256.html>.

<sup>1581</sup> Halifax to benefit from safe access to Georges Island, offering new visitor experiences, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 28 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/halifax-to-benefit-from-safe-access-to-georges-island-offering-new-visitor-experiences-858361645.html>.

<sup>1582</sup> Residents across the Northwest Territories to benefit from 19 infrastructure projects 13/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-across-the-northwest-territories-to-benefit-from-19-infrastructure-projects-876688985.html>.

CCTV cameras and Passenger Information Displays to help to create “inclusive communities where everyone has access to public services and job opportunities” as well as to “reduce air pollution.”<sup>1583</sup>

On 19 August 2019, Minister Jordan and Nunavut’s Minister of Community and Government Services Lorne Kusugak announced joint funding worth over CAD151 million towards submarine fibreoptic cable from Iceland to Nunavut, as part of the Rural and Northern Communities Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The project will “connect 3215 households in Nunavut to high speed internet services,” enhancing services for the communities and supporting economic growth.<sup>1584</sup>

On 23 August 2019, Minister Champagne announced the commitment of over CAD123 million towards 10 public transit and active transportation projects in London, Ontario as part of the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream in the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure program. The aim of the project is to improve safety and service reliability and to shorten travel times for London residents by providing affordable transportation. This project will support local job and overall economic growth.<sup>1585</sup>

On 23 August 2019, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef announced funding worth CAD917,000 through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan. The project includes roadwork that will “improve the safety for all users” and ensure “modern and reliable networks of roads and bridges” in Trent Lakes, “positioning [the community] for growth and long-term prosperity.”<sup>1586</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Minister Jordan and New Brunswick’s Minister of Rural Economic Development and Bill Oliver, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, pledged over CAD1.5 million to the rural communities, Village of Chipman and Weldford Parish as part of the Government of Canada’s Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream. The goal is to build infrastructure for essential services and to maintain the safety of pre-existing infrastructure such as roads and energy systems.<sup>1587</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebouthillier announced funding worth over CAD45.8 million to repair ten parts of the Gaspésie railway through the Disaster Mitigation and

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<sup>1583</sup> Canada invests in improving public transit amenities at Brentwood Town Centre Station 19/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 19 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-improving-public-transit-amenities-at-brentwood-town-centre-station-829089685.html>

<sup>1584</sup> Nunavut residences to benefit from high speed internet 19/08/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 19 August 2019. Access Date: January 28, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/nunavut-residents-to-benefit-from-high-speed-internet-806159319.html>.

<sup>1585</sup> London residents to benefit from improved public transit and active transportation infrastructure, Newswire (Toronto) 23 August 2019. Access Date: January 27, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/london-residents-to-benefit-from-improved-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-840776849.html>.

<sup>1586</sup> Reconstruction of Beaver Lake Road will improve safety for all road users in Trent Lakes, Newswire (Toronto) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/reconstruction-of-beaver-lake-road-will-improve-safety-for-all-road-users-in-trent-lakes-807264544.html>.

<sup>1587</sup> Residents of Village of Chipman and Weldford Parish to benefit from infrastructure improvements, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-of-village-of-chipman-and-weldford-parish-to-benefit-from-infrastructure-improvements-805637165.html>.



Adaption Fund. This project aims to reduce the impact of natural disasters on Canadian communities due to “frequent and intensifying weather events caused by climate change.”<sup>1588</sup>

On 27 August 2019, Minister Champagne pledged more than CAD100 million to be distributed among 15 projects as part of the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada plan and the Small Communities Fund of the New Building Canada Fund. Six of the projects will be dedicated to small communities and the other nine towards modernizing existing systems, with the goal of improving drinking water and wastewater services in the province of British Columbia.<sup>1589</sup>

On 29 August 2019, Minister Champagne pledged more than CAD57 million towards 5 public transport projects in the Region of Waterloo towards the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream in the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure plan. The goal of the plan is to “increase the capacity of the public transit system in the region” and to provide affordable and sustainable transportation services to its residents which supports economic growth.<sup>1590</sup>

On 29 August 2019, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Intergovernmental and Northern Affairs and Internal Affairs Yvonne Jones and the Government of Quebec announced funding together worth CAD40.5million as a joint investment into rural Nunavik communities through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Plan, Indigenous Services Canada and the Aboriginal Affairs Secretariat. The purpose of the project is to provide residential rehabilitation services to people with addictions, preserve culture and “to help keep families together and improve children’s living conditions.”<sup>1591</sup>

On 30 August 2019, Minister Champagne and Minister of Employment, Workforce and Labour Patty Hajdu announced funding worth over CAD37 million to expand a highway as part of the Building Canada Fund-Major Infrastructure Component. Funding will be conditional on environmental assessment requirements and the consultation by the Government of Ontario with local Indigenous groups. The purpose of the project is to expand an 8.6 kilometre section of the highway and construct two new bridges to help “businesses move their goods to customer markets...building a strong economy for all Canadians.”<sup>1592</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister Champagne announced funding worth over CAD33.7 million through the Disaster Mitigation and Adaption Fund for the Toronto Waterfront Erosion Hazard Mitigation Project. The aim of the project is to “rehabilitate 80 structural assets along the north shore

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<sup>1588</sup> Canada invests in protecting the Gaspesie against erosion and restoring railway transportation, Newswire (Toronto) 26 August 2019. Access Date: January 26, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-protecting-the-gaspesie-against-erosion-and-restoring-railway-transportation-899458932.html>.

<sup>1589</sup> Better drinking water and wastewater systems coming to multiple BC communities, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 27 August 2019. Access Date: January 26, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/better-drinking-water-and-wastewater-systems-coming-to-multiple-bc-communities-893033744.html>.

<sup>1590</sup> Residents in the Waterloo Region to benefit from improved public transit infrastructure, Newswire (Toronto) 29 August 2019. Access Date: January, 27 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-in-the-waterloo-region-to-benefit-from-improved-public-transit-infrastructure-881228223.html>.

<sup>1591</sup> Canada and Quebec invest to improving health services for Nunavik communities, Newswire (Toronto) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-to-improving-health-services-for-nunavik-communities-835123235.html>.

<sup>1592</sup> Residents of Northern Ontario to benefit from expansion of Highway 11/17 30/08/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-of-northern-ontario-to-benefit-from-expansion-of-highway-11-17-837858466.html>.

of Lake Ontario” and protect parks, trails, and other municipal infrastructure against flooding and erosion risks, due to climate change.<sup>1593</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister Champagne pledged over CAD98.3 million to 16 local infrastructure projects throughout Yukon, including green energy updates and local public work facilities, as part of the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure plan and Small Communities Fund (SCF).<sup>1594</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Rodger Cruzner, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour, announced that over CAD39.1 million will be used to support the construction of two new wastewater treatment facilities for the residents of Cape Breton, as part of the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1595</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister Champagne announced funding worth CAD29 million towards the construction of the Canada Games Park in Thorold, Ontario, and upgrades to recreational fields and buildings in surrounding communities as part of the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure program. The goal of the project is to benefit local and national athletes, especially residents of the Niagara region and to support dynamic, healthy communities.<sup>1596</sup>

On 21 December 2019, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna announced funding worth CAD12.6 million for joint funding for “new handy DART operations and maintenance facility in View Royal” through the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure program. The aim of the project is to provide more transit services in Greater Victoria to accommodate expected increases in demand and to better accommodate residents with disabilities. The facility will be BC Transit’s first to be LEED Gold certified.<sup>1597</sup>

On 14 January 2020, Minister McKenna and Prince Edward Island’s (PEI) Minister of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy Steven Myers announced funding of over CAD26.3 million for the construction of “a solar energy farm and storage facility in Summerside.” The project is funded through the Green Infrastructure Stream of the Government of Canada’s Investing in Canada infrastructure plan as an investment in innovative green infrastructure and aims to improve the energy efficiency of the City of Summerside so it can “meet 62 per cent of its electricity needs through renewable energy and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 21,000 tonnes per year.”<sup>1598</sup>

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<sup>1593</sup> Canada helps protect communities across the City of Toronto from erosion and flooding 04/09/2019, Newswire (Toronto) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-helps-protect-communities-across-the-city-of-toronto-from-erosion-and-flooding-801293284.html>.

<sup>1594</sup> Yukoners to benefit from 16 local infrastructure projects across the territory 04/09/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/yukoners-to-benefit-from-16-local-infrastructure-projects-across-the-territory-832167661.html>.

<sup>1595</sup> Cape Breton residents to benefit from wastewater treatment infrastructure 05/09/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/cape-breton-residents-to-benefit-from-wastewater-treatment-infrastructure-883131119.html>.

<sup>1596</sup> New federal investment in 2021 Canada Games sport facilities 05/09/2019, Canada Newswire (Toronto) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/new-federal-investment-in-2021-canada-games-sport-facilities-844372948.html>.

<sup>1597</sup> Keeping B.C. residents connected with improved transit services 21/12/2019, Mirage News (Wollongong) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.miragenews.com/keeping-bc-residents-connected-with-improved-transit-services/>.

<sup>1598</sup> Summerside to benefit from a new solar farm 14/01/2020, Newswire (Toronto) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/summerside-to-benefit-from-a-new-solar-farm-848061014.html>.

On 16 January 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding for the city of Guelph to replace 35 diesel busses and purchase 30 electric busses. The project is a part of the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream in the Government of Canada's Investing in Canada infrastructure plan and will seek to expand transportation capacity and reduce emissions.<sup>1599</sup>

On 17 January 2020, Minister of Infrastructure Laurie Scott and Premier of Ontario Doug Ford announced funding worth CAD200 million "to help 424 small, rural and northern communities build and repair critical local infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water and wastewater infrastructure." Funding will be received through the Ontario Community Infrastructure Fund and the aim of the project is to provide small, rural and northern communities with reliable, safe infrastructure to sustain local economies.<sup>1600</sup>

On 6 February 2020, Minister McKenna together with Bill Karsten, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), announced funding worth over CAD2.5 million toward 11 new projects as part of the Green Municipal Fund.<sup>1601</sup> These projects align with the principle of integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments and include testing electric public transport, thermophilic composters and helping low-income households minimize their greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1602</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Minister McKenna and Mr. Karsten announced funding worth over CAD500,000 for 14 new projects as part of the Municipal Asset Management Program.<sup>1603</sup> These projects will help rural Quebec communities "plan, build and maintain their roads, bridges, water treatment plants and other assets more strategically and ensure their infrastructure dollars go further."<sup>1604</sup> This funding is in line with Canada's commitment to maximizing the impact of infrastructure on sustainable growth and development.<sup>1605</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Minister Monsef and Jonatan Julien, Quebec's Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, announced joint funding worth over CAD4.8 million to provide a road stop with approximately 41 kilometres of power line.<sup>1606</sup> This project is part of the Rural and Northern

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<sup>1599</sup> Guelph Residents to Benefit from Improved Green Public Transit Infrastructure 16/01/2020, Ontario Newsroom (Toronto) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://news.ontario.ca/moi/en/2020/01/guelph-residents-to-benefit-from-improved-green-public-transit-infrastructure-1.html>.

<sup>1600</sup> Ontario Investing \$200 Million in Small, Rural and Northern Communities 17/01/2020, Ontario Newsroom (Parry Sound) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 28 January 2020. <https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/01/ontario-investing-200-million-in-small-rural-and-northern-communities.html>.

<sup>1601</sup> Canadian communities receive federal support for sustainability projects 06/02/2020, Canada Newswire (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadian-communities-receive-federal-support-for-sustainability-projects-800967384.html>.

<sup>1602</sup> Canadian communities receive federal support for sustainability projects 06/02/2020, Canada Newswire (Ottawa) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canadian-communities-receive-federal-support-for-sustainability-projects-800967384.html>.

<sup>1603</sup> Quebec communities receive federal support for infrastructure planning 13/02/2020, Canada Newswire (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/quebec-communities-receive-federal-support-for-infrastructure-planning-880025994.html>.

<sup>1604</sup> Quebec communities receive federal support for infrastructure planning, Canada Newswire (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/quebec-communities-receive-federal-support-for-infrastructure-planning-880025994.html>.

<sup>1605</sup> Quebec communities receive federal support for infrastructure planning, Canada Newswire (Ottawa) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/quebec-communities-receive-federal-support-for-infrastructure-planning-880025994.html>.

<sup>1606</sup> Canada and Quebec are investing in improved access to renewable energy in northern Quebec, Canada Newswire (James Bay) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-are-investing-in-improved-access-to-renewable-energy-in-northern-quebec-814894526.html>.

Communities stream of the Investing in Canada plan and will integrate the societal and environmental considerations of rural and northern communities, serving over 11,000 residents with a more efficient and reliable energy source.<sup>1607</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Minister Monsef and Minister Julien announced funding worth nearly CAD2.9 million to replace 31 culverts on a rural road in Quebec.<sup>1608</sup> This project is part of the Rural and Northern Communities stream of the Investing in Canada plan and will integrate the societal considerations of rural and northern communities, serving over 6,000 residents and ensuring the provision of necessary resources without interruption.<sup>1609</sup>

On 21 February 2020, Minister McKenna and PEI's Minister Myers announced funding worth over CAD303,000 towards expanding “the Tignish Co-Op Health Centre to include a community and recreational space.”<sup>1610</sup> The funding is through the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream (CCRIS) of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan and will integrate social considerations by providing a variety of programs and services for seniors, new mothers, and youth in the area.<sup>1611</sup>

On 26 February 2020, Minister McKenna and Ontario's Minister of Infrastructure Laurie Scott announced funding worth over CAD1.6 million for 10 public transit infrastructure projects in the City of Stratford.<sup>1612</sup> The funding is through the Public Transit Infrastructure Stream (PTIS) of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan and will improve the city's public transit fleet and supporting infrastructure, as well as “pilot the design of new bus routes using an application-based, ‘on-demand’ software.”<sup>1613</sup> This project is in-line with Canada's commitment to integration societal considerations and maximizing the positive impact of its infrastructure investments.<sup>1614</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD18.7 million “for the Birtle Transmission Line linking Saskatchewan to Manitoba's green, renewable energy,” through the

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<sup>1607</sup> Canada and Quebec are investing in improved access to renewable energy in northern Quebec, Canada Newswire (James Bay) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-are-investing-in-improved-access-to-renewable-energy-in-northern-quebec-814894526.html>.

<sup>1608</sup> Canada and Quebec are investing in the long-term sustainability of a key road link in northern Quebec, Canada Newswire (Chisasibi) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-are-investing-in-the-long-term-sustainability-of-a-key-road-link-in-northern-quebec-805829999.html>.

<sup>1609</sup> Canada and Quebec are investing in the long-term sustainability of a key road link in northern Quebec, Canada Newswire (Chisasibi) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-are-investing-in-the-long-term-sustainability-of-a-key-road-link-in-northern-quebec-805829999.html>.

<sup>1610</sup> Tignish residents to benefit from the Co-op Health Centre expansion 21/02/2020, Newswire (Tignish) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/tignish-residents-to-benefit-from-the-co-op-health-centre-expansion-860818763.html>.

<sup>1611</sup> Tignish residents to benefit from the Co-op Health Centre expansion 21/02/2020, Newswire (Tignish) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/tignish-residents-to-benefit-from-the-co-op-health-centre-expansion-860818763.html>.

<sup>1612</sup> Stratford residents to benefit from new public transit infrastructure and accessible buses, Canada Newswire (Stratford) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/stratford-residents-to-benefit-from-new-public-transit-infrastructure-and-accessible-buses-865679479.html>.

<sup>1613</sup> Stratford residents to benefit from new public transit infrastructure and accessible buses, Canada Newswire (Stratford) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/stratford-residents-to-benefit-from-new-public-transit-infrastructure-and-accessible-buses-865679479.html>.

<sup>1614</sup> Stratford residents to benefit from new public transit infrastructure and accessible buses, Canada Newswire (Stratford) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/stratford-residents-to-benefit-from-new-public-transit-infrastructure-and-accessible-buses-865679479.html>.

Green Infrastructure Stream in the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1615</sup> The project integrates environmental considerations with the aim to provide 215 megawatts of hydroelectric renewable energy funding to maintain stable, affordable energy.<sup>1616</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD18.7 million “for the Birtle Transmission Line linking Saskatchewan to Manitoba’s green, renewable energy,” through the Green Infrastructure Stream (GIS) in the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1617</sup> The project integrates environmental considerations with the aim to provide 215 megawatts of hydroelectric renewable energy funding to maintain stable, affordable energy.<sup>1618</sup>

On 5 March 2020, Agriculture and Agri-Food Minister Marie-Claude Bibeau announced funding of CAD893,284 “for an innovative project that will help increase energy use efficiency and reduce fossil fuel use in their greenhouse production.”<sup>1619</sup> The aim of this funding is to “test and demonstrate the adaptation of a clean technology boiler system,” which will operate 100 per cent on renewable heating.<sup>1620</sup> This funding aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating environmental considerations into its infrastructure investment decisions.<sup>1621</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Government of Canada announced changes in leadership at the CIB as part of their plan to build modern, public infrastructure, create jobs and make Canada more globally competitive.<sup>1622</sup> These changes reflect Canada’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure governance.<sup>1623</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the Government of Canada, through Business Development Bank of Canada and Export Development Canada made available commercial loans between CAD15 and CAD60 million as “additional financial capacity to help support Canada’s oil and gas sector.”<sup>1624</sup> The aim of these funds are to “ensure a degree of continuity of operations during this period of uncertainty [COVID-

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<sup>1615</sup> Transmission line to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more reliable power supply, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/transmission-line-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-create-more-reliable-power-supply-870531530.html>.

<sup>1616</sup> Transmission line to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more reliable power supply, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/transmission-line-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-create-more-reliable-power-supply-870531530.html>.

<sup>1617</sup> Transmission line to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more reliable power supply, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg). Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/transmission-line-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-create-more-reliable-power-supply-870531530.html>

<sup>1618</sup> Transmission line to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and create more reliable power supply, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg). Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/transmission-line-to-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions-and-create-more-reliable-power-supply-870531530.html>

<sup>1619</sup> Investing to support clean technology in agriculture, Canada Newswire (Kensington). Access Date: 30 June, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/investing-to-support-clean-technologies-in-agriculture-825734744.html>

<sup>1620</sup> Investing to support clean technology in agriculture, Canada Newswire (Kensington). Access Date: 30 June, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/investing-to-support-clean-technologies-in-agriculture-825734744.html>

<sup>1621</sup> Investing to support clean technology in agriculture, Canada Newswire (Kensington). Access Date: 30 June, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/investing-to-support-clean-technologies-in-agriculture-825734744.html>

<sup>1622</sup> Changes in leadership at the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/changes-in-leadership-at-the-canadian-infrastructure-bank-835902268.html>

<sup>1623</sup> Changes in leadership at the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/changes-in-leadership-at-the-canadian-infrastructure-bank-835902268.html>

<sup>1624</sup> BDC to increase support to Canadian oil and gas sector companies, Canada Newswire (Montreal). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/bdc-to-increase-support-to-canadian-oil-and-gas-sector-companies-805078613.html>

19].<sup>1625</sup> This funding aligns with Canada’s commitment to strengthening infrastructure governance and building resilience against external economic risks.<sup>1626</sup>

On 16 May 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding up to CAD20.54 million to Women’s Shelters Canada, which was “disbursed to over 500 women’s shelters and sexual assault centres from coast to coast.”<sup>1627</sup> The aim of the funding was to assist with infrastructure maintenance and to help manage an increased demand, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1628</sup> It is aligned with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investment decisions.<sup>1629</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Ahmed Hussen announced approximately CAD4.3 million in funding to 47 organizations across Canada that are accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Canada, which includes meeting 17 Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1630</sup> This is in line with Canada’s commitment to integrating environmental and social considerations into its infrastructure investment decisions.<sup>1631</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Minister of Natural Resources Seamus O’Regan announced CAD326,000 worth of funding for “developing an interactive online platform that will make it easier for residents [in Saint John] to track their energy use and improve energy efficiency in their homes.”<sup>1632</sup> The goal of this funding is to raise awareness and promote adoption of existing energy efficiency programs, which aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating environmental considerations into its infrastructure investments.<sup>1633</sup>

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<sup>1625</sup> BDC to increase support to Canadian oil and gas sector companies, Canada Newswire (Montreal). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/bdc-to-increase-support-to-canadian-oil-and-gas-sector-companies-805078613.html>

<sup>1626</sup> BDC to increase support to Canadian oil and gas sector companies, Canada Newswire (Montreal). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/bdc-to-increase-support-to-canadian-oil-and-gas-sector-companies-805078613.html>

<sup>1627</sup> Government of Canada supports over 500 women’s shelters and sexual assault centres during the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-over-500-women-s-shelters-and-sexual-assault-centres-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-836469887.html>

<sup>1628</sup> Government of Canada supports over 500 women’s shelters and sexual assault centres during the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-over-500-women-s-shelters-and-sexual-assault-centres-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-836469887.html>

<sup>1629</sup> Government of Canada supports over 500 women’s shelters and sexual assault centres during the COVID-19 pandemic, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-over-500-women-s-shelters-and-sexual-assault-centres-during-the-covid-19-pandemic-836469887.html>

<sup>1630</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to support organizations accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Canada, Canada Newswire (Gatineau). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-support-organizations-accelerating-action-on-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-in-canada-869807177.html>

<sup>1631</sup> Government of Canada announces funding to support organizations accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Canada, Canada Newswire (Gatineau). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-funding-to-support-organizations-accelerating-action-on-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-in-canada-869807177.html>

<sup>1632</sup> Canada Invests in Innovative Household Energy Efficiency in Saint John, Newswire Canada (Saint John). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-innovative-household-energy-efficiency-in-saint-john-827747446.html>

<sup>1633</sup> Canada Invests in Innovative Household Energy Efficiency in Saint John, Newswire Canada (Saint John). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-innovative-household-energy-efficiency-in-saint-john-827747446.html>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US. GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1634</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1635</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Minister of Canadian Heritage Steven Guilbeault announced funding of CAD250,000 “for the City of Summerside to renovate the Armoury, a recognized Canadian historic place.”<sup>1636</sup> The funding will go towards new drainage, climate control, heating and cooling systems, as well as improvements to the physical accessibility of the site.<sup>1637</sup> This project is in-line with Canada’s commitment to integrate social considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1638</sup>

On 19 June 2020, Minister Monsef announced over CAD22 million in funding for 10 road and bridge projects in Central and Eastern Ontario, through the Rural and Northern Communities Infrastructure Stream (RNIS) of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1639</sup> Improvements to both roads and bridges “will increase safety for motorists and pedestrians, and extend the life of the bridge and roadway for many year.”<sup>1640</sup> This funding is in-line with Canada’s commitments to integrating social considerations and raising infrastructure economic efficiency in terms of life-cycle costs.<sup>1641</sup>

On 24 June 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding of over CAD5.8 million through the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan towards improving the public transit infrastructure in Peterborough.<sup>1642</sup> Public transit users will benefit from improved capacity, reliability and quality of service, especially

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<sup>1634</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1635</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1636</sup> Government of Canada to Invest in Cultural Infrastructure in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Newswire Canada (Summerside). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-to-invest-in-cultural-infrastructure-in-summerside-prince-edward-island-890343222.html>

<sup>1637</sup> Government of Canada to Invest in Cultural Infrastructure in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Newswire Canada (Summerside). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-to-invest-in-cultural-infrastructure-in-summerside-prince-edward-island-890343222.html>

<sup>1638</sup> Government of Canada to Invest in Cultural Infrastructure in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Newswire Canada (Summerside). Access Date: 30 June 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-to-invest-in-cultural-infrastructure-in-summerside-prince-edward-island-890343222.html>

<sup>1639</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges to support rural communities in Central and Eastern Ontario, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-to-support-rural-communities-in-central-and-eastern-ontario-852082083.html>

<sup>1640</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges to support rural communities in Central and Eastern Ontario, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-to-support-rural-communities-in-central-and-eastern-ontario-852082083.html>

<sup>1641</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges to support rural communities in Central and Eastern Ontario, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-to-support-rural-communities-in-central-and-eastern-ontario-852082083.html>

<sup>1642</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in public transit infrastructure for Peterborough residents, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-public-transit-infrastructure-for-peterborough-residents-896139961.html>

those with limited mobility or requiring specialized care.<sup>1643</sup> This funding aligns with Canada's commitment to integrating social considerations.<sup>1644</sup>

On 24 June 2020, Minister O'Regan announced funding of CAD5 million towards "the development of a Wildland Fire Research Network In Canada in collaboration with Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)."<sup>1645</sup> This council aims to build resilience against natural disasters, developing innovative fire management tactics that reduce the risks of Canada's wildland fire and to protect Canadians.<sup>1646</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD1.3 million in funding to go towards the North East Industrial Park active transportation and transit shelter project as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1647</sup> This funding integrates both social and environmental considerations, building new accessible sidewalks, bus stops and transit shelters, as well as expanding Belleville's public transit fleet.<sup>1648</sup>

On 3 July 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef announced funding of CAD44.5 million for 21 projects in the Lower Mainland, as part of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1649</sup> These projects integrate social considerations and include "improvements to community centres, health centres, stormwater management, drinking water and wastewater facilities, cultural facilities, and social support hubs."<sup>1650</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Minister O'Regan announced CAD6 million in funding towards the Petroleum Technology Alliance of Canada as part of the Canadian Emissions Reduction Innovation Network initiative.<sup>1651</sup> This funding "will inform protocols and standards for the detection and mitigation of

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<sup>1643</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in public transit infrastructure for Peterborough residents, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-public-transit-infrastructure-for-peterborough-residents-896139961.html>

<sup>1644</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in public transit infrastructure for Peterborough residents, Newswire Canada (Peterborough). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-public-transit-infrastructure-for-peterborough-residents-896139961.html>

<sup>1645</sup> Investing in Wildland Fire Research to Protect Canadians, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/investing-in-wildland-fire-research-to-protect-canadians-867483674.html>

<sup>1646</sup> Investing in Wildland Fire Research to Protect Canadians, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/investing-in-wildland-fire-research-to-protect-canadians-867483674.html>

<sup>1647</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in a more sustainable Belleville with improved active transportation and public transit infrastructure 29/06/2020, Newswire Canada (Bellville). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-a-more-sustainable-belleville-with-improved-active-transportation-and-public-transit-infrastructure-850548871.html>

<sup>1648</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in a more sustainable Belleville with improved active transportation and public transit infrastructure, Newswire Canada (Bellville). Access Date: 4 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-a-more-sustainable-belleville-with-improved-active-transportation-and-public-transit-infrastructure-850548871.html>

<sup>1649</sup> Canada and British Columbia invest in infrastructure in the Lower Mainland to create jobs and strengthen communities 03/07/2020, Canada Newswire (Delta). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-infrastructure-in-the-lower-mainland-to-create-jobs-and-strengthen-communities-892581437.html>

<sup>1650</sup> Canada and British Columbia invest in infrastructure in the Lower Mainland to create jobs and strengthen communities 03/07/2020, Canada Newswire (Delta). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-infrastructure-in-the-lower-mainland-to-create-jobs-and-strengthen-communities-892581437.html>

<sup>1651</sup> Canada Invests in clean Technology for Alberta's Natural Resources Sectors 07/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-for-alberta-s-natural-resources-sectors-863821246.html>



methane emissions that will become the benchmark for Canada and the world,” thus helping Canada to understand and reduce its emissions.<sup>1652</sup> This funding integrates environmental considerations and is aligned with Canada’s commitments.<sup>1653</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD5.5 million in funding towards four public transit projects in Brantford.<sup>1654</sup> These projects include the purchasing of 21 new, 13 conventional and eight para-transit buses, the offering of better service to passengers and the reduction of maintenance costs.<sup>1655</sup> This funding is through the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan and it aligns with Canada’s commitments to maximize the positive impact of existing infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth.<sup>1656</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding of over CAD13.2 million towards 11 projects that aim to improve road and bridge infrastructure in Western Ontario.<sup>1657</sup> The funding is a part of the RNIS of the Investing in Canada plan and will “increase road safety and reliability, improve the flow of traffic, and help prevent future flooding in rural communities.”<sup>1658</sup> This funding aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1659</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Minister O’Regan announced funding of CAD770,000 “to help Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro build 28 electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the province that will...support Canada’s transition to a clean energy future by reducing pollution.”<sup>1660</sup> The funding is provided through the Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative and aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating environmental considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1661</sup>

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<sup>1652</sup> Canada Invests in clean Technology for Alberta’s Natural Resources Sectors 07/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-for-alberta-s-natural-resources-sectors-863821246.html>

<sup>1653</sup> Canada Invests in clean Technology for Alberta’s Natural Resources Sectors 07/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-clean-technology-for-alberta-s-natural-resources-sectors-863821246.html>

<sup>1654</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in greener Brantford with modern public transit infrastructure 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brantford). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-greener-brantford-with-modern-public-transit-infrastructure-851824089.html>

<sup>1655</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in greener Brantford with modern public transit infrastructure 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brantford). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-greener-brantford-with-modern-public-transit-infrastructure-851824089.html>

<sup>1656</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in greener Brantford with modern public transit infrastructure 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brantford). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-greener-brantford-with-modern-public-transit-infrastructure-851824089.html>

<sup>1657</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges in rural communities in Western Ontario 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Wilmot). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-in-rural-communities-in-western-ontario-899156104.html>

<sup>1658</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges in rural communities in Western Ontario 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Wilmot). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-in-rural-communities-in-western-ontario-899156104.html>

<sup>1659</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges in rural communities in Western Ontario 08/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Wilmot). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-in-rural-communities-in-western-ontario-899156104.html>

<sup>1660</sup> Canada Invests in Newfoundland and Labrador’s Electric Vehicle Network 10/07/2020, Newswire Canada (St. John’s). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-s-electric-vehicle-network-848268778.html>

<sup>1661</sup> Canada Invests in Newfoundland and Labrador’s Electric Vehicle Network 10/07/2020, Newswire Canada (St. John’s). Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-newfoundland-and-labrador-s-electric-vehicle-network-848268778.html>

On 13 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding of over CAD16.4 million towards five projects to modernize and improve Barrie Transit, as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1662</sup> These projects aim to replace an aging bus fleet, develop new bus stops and platforms, and build new transit hubs.<sup>1663</sup> This funding aligns with Canada's commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure investments and maximizing the positive impact of existing infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth.<sup>1664</sup>

On 15 July 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding of over CAD12.7 million towards six road projects and one airport runway project in Northern Ontario as part of the RNIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1665</sup> These projects will involve road improvements, replacements and upgrades, as well as new asphalt for an airway runway, and are in-line with Canada's commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1666</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Mélanie Joly announced funding close to CAD21 million for 45 projects across Quebec. The aim of these projects is to modernize manufacturing plants with the installation of digital production equipment and integration of digital tools.<sup>1667</sup> This funding is in line with Canada's commitment to building resilience against market and labour risk, as well as improving the country's economic efficiency.<sup>1668</sup>

On 22 July 2020, Minister O'Regan announced Canada's commitment to the Three Percent Club in "a commitment to working collaboratively with international partners...to increase energy efficiency, accelerate the clean energy transition and help meeting climate change goals."<sup>1669</sup> This membership is in-line with Canada's commitment to maximize the positive impact of its infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, and to integrate environmental considerations in infrastructure investments.<sup>1670</sup>

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<sup>1662</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in more accessible public transit infrastructure for Barrie residents 13/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Barrie). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-for-barrie-residents-803027503.html>

<sup>1663</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in more accessible public transit infrastructure for Barrie residents 13/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Barrie). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-for-barrie-residents-803027503.html>

<sup>1664</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in more accessible public transit infrastructure for Barrie residents 13/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Barrie). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-for-barrie-residents-803027503.html>

<sup>1665</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and an airport runway for rural communities in Northern Ontario 16/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Manitowadge). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-an-airport-runway-for-rural-communities-in-northern-ontario-874600426.html>

<sup>1666</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and an airport runway for rural communities in Northern Ontario 16/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Manitowadge). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-an-airport-runway-for-rural-communities-in-northern-ontario-874600426.html>

<sup>1667</sup> Government of Canada supports innovative manufacturing businesses 16/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Quebec). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-manufacturing-businesses-840937636.html>

<sup>1668</sup> Government of Canada supports innovative manufacturing businesses 16/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Quebec). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-manufacturing-businesses-840937636.html>

<sup>1669</sup> Canada Joins Three Percent Club to Improve Global Energy Efficiency 22/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-joins-three-percent-club-to-improve-global-energy-efficiency-844174713.html>

<sup>1670</sup> Canada Joins Three Percent Club to Improve Global Energy Efficiency 22/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-joins-three-percent-club-to-improve-global-energy-efficiency-844174713.html>

On 23 July 2020, Minister O'Regan announced CAD5.1 in funding for London Hydro “to develop and deploy a smart microgrid in the West 5 net-zero energy community in London, Ontario.”<sup>1671</sup> The goal is to assist this community in becoming “Canada’s first large-scale fully integrated, net-zero energy community,” by 2050.<sup>1672</sup> This infrastructure project integrates both environmental and social considerations to meet Canada’s commitments.<sup>1673</sup>

On 23 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding of CAD21.25 million to construct a 106-kilometre transmission line in western Prince Edward Island, which “will support future wind energy generation projects.”<sup>1674</sup> This project aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating environmental considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1675</sup>

On 24 July 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding over CAD7.6 million towards seven road and bridge projects across Southwestern Ontario, which aim “reduce service interruptions and increase safety” by replacing bridges and rehabilitating roads.<sup>1676</sup> These projects align with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investments and to maximizing the positive impact of existing infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1677</sup>

On 25 July 2020, Minister Joly announced CAD22 million in funding for 37 projects as part of the Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions plan.<sup>1678</sup> These projects are to support the development of innovative, regional businesses and organizations and they align with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure planning.<sup>1679</sup>

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<sup>1671</sup> Canada Invests in Smart Grid Technology for London Net-Zero Energy Community 23/07/2020, Newswire Canada (London). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-smart-grid-technology-for-london-net-zero-energy-community-875605548.html>

<sup>1672</sup> Canada Invests in Smart Grid Technology for London Net-Zero Energy Community 23/07/2020, Newswire Canada (London). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-smart-grid-technology-for-london-net-zero-energy-community-875605548.html>

<sup>1673</sup> Canada Invests in Smart Grid Technology for London Net-Zero Energy Community 23/07/2020, Newswire Canada (London). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-smart-grid-technology-for-london-net-zero-energy-community-875605548.html>

<sup>1674</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island invest in new transmission line to support wind energy production 23/07/2020, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-new-transmission-line-to-support-wind-energy-production-810445968.html>

<sup>1675</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island invest in new transmission line to support wind energy production 23/07/2020, Canada Newswire (Winnipeg). Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-new-transmission-line-to-support-wind-energy-production-810445968.html>

<sup>1676</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges, connecting rural communities in Southwestern Ontario 24/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Bluewater). Access Date: 31 July, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-connecting-rural-communities-in-southwestern-ontario-841575539.html>

<sup>1677</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in roads and bridges, connecting rural communities in Southwestern Ontario 24/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Bluewater). Access Date: 31 July, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-connecting-rural-communities-in-southwestern-ontario-841575539.html>

<sup>1678</sup> The Government of Canada invests in regional development in Quebec 24/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Trois-Rivieres). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-regional-development-in-quebec-801821395.html>

<sup>1679</sup> The Government of Canada invests in regional development in Quebec 24/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Trois-Rivieres). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-regional-development-in-quebec-801821395.html>

On 28 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD5.5 million in funding six public transit projects intended to improve Sault Ste. Marie's transit system as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1680</sup> These investments include the purchases of 22 buses, the upgrading of fare boxes and automatic vehicle location equipment and an addition to the main transit building. These projects align with Canada's commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure planning.<sup>1681</sup>

On 28 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD45.4 million in funding towards four projects intended to improve the transit system in Brampton, Ontario, as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1682</sup> The funding aims to create a more sustainable community by refurbishing 300 hybrid and conventional buses over the next four years and increasing the number of bus bays in existing terminals.<sup>1683</sup> These projects are in-line with Canada's commitments to integrate social and environmental considerations in its investments.<sup>1684</sup>

On 29 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD26.5 million in funding towards 14 projects in the Oakville, Ontario, as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada plan.<sup>1685</sup> The aim of the funding is to "modernize Oakville's transit system and create a more sustainable community," with the implementation of zero-emission battery-electric busses, 32 charging stations and Wi-Fi installations, among other improvements.<sup>1686</sup> This aligns with Canada's commitment to integration social considerations into its infrastructure investments and to maximizing the positive impact of existing infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1687</sup>

On 30 July 2020, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathon Wilkinson announced funding worth CAD1.18 million to support 15 new projects as part of the Lake Winnipeg Basin

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<sup>1680</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in sustainable public transit infrastructure to support Sault Ste. Marie residents 28/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Sault Ste. Marie). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-infrastructure-to-support-sault-ste-marie-residents-850108579.html>

<sup>1681</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in sustainable public transit infrastructure to support Sault Ste. Marie residents 28/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Sault Ste. Marie). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-infrastructure-to-support-sault-ste-marie-residents-850108579.html>

<sup>1682</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in sustainable public transit for Brampton residents 28/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brampton). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-brampton-residents-879140689.html>

<sup>1683</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in sustainable public transit for Brampton residents 28/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brampton). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-brampton-residents-879140689.html>

<sup>1684</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in sustainable public transit for Brampton residents 28/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Brampton). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-brampton-residents-879140689.html>

<sup>1685</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in modern, green public transit for residents of Oakville 29/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Oakville). Access Date: 31 July, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-green-public-transit-for-residents-of-oakville-801113653.html>

<sup>1686</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in modern, green public transit for residents of Oakville 29/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Oakville). Access Date: 31 July, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-green-public-transit-for-residents-of-oakville-801113653.html>

<sup>1687</sup> Canada and Ontario invest in modern, green public transit for residents of Oakville 29/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Oakville). Access Date: 31 July, 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-green-public-transit-for-residents-of-oakville-801113653.html>

Program.<sup>1688</sup> These projects “will address key water-quality issues...including addressing algae growth, enhancing collaboration throughout the basin, and engaging Indigenous Peoples in freshwater management.”<sup>1689</sup> These projects are in-line with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investments and to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1690</sup>

On 31 July 2020, Minister McKenna announced CAD813,000 in funding through the GIS in the Investing in Canada plan for two water and wastewater projects in Deer Lake.<sup>1691</sup> The goal of the projects is to “provide more reliable and safe infrastructure and increase the capacity to manage wastewater and stormwater.”<sup>1692</sup> This aligns with Canada’s commitments to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure investments and to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1693</sup>

On 3 August 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding worth CAD1.94 million for five new projects that will connect rural Quebec communities with high-speed technology as part of the Connect to Innovate program.<sup>1694</sup> These projects aim to “expand the interaction Canadians have within and outside their communities,” and align with Canada’s commitment to integrate social considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>1695</sup>

On 4 August 2020, Minister McKenna, along with PEI’s Minister Myers announced funding worth over CAD2.4 million into three projects “that will build or improve facilities in Summerside for the 2023 Canada Winter Games.”<sup>1696</sup> The funding is a part of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan

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<sup>1688</sup> Government of Canada protecting the Lake Winnipeg Basin 30/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Winnipeg). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-protecting-the-lake-winnipeg-basin-855315838.html>

<sup>1689</sup> Government of Canada protecting the Lake Winnipeg Basin 30/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Winnipeg). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-protecting-the-lake-winnipeg-basin-855315838.html>

<sup>1690</sup> Government of Canada protecting the Lake Winnipeg Basin 30/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Winnipeg). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-protecting-the-lake-winnipeg-basin-855315838.html>

<sup>1691</sup> Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador invest more reliable water and wastewater infrastructure in Deer Lake 31/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Deer Lake). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-more-reliable-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-in-deer-lake-801494564.html>

<sup>1692</sup> Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador invest in more reliable water and wastewater infrastructure in Deer Lake 31/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Deer Lake). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-more-reliable-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-in-deer-lake-801494564.html>

<sup>1693</sup> Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador invest in more reliable water and wastewater infrastructure in Deer Lake 31/07/2020, Newswire Canada (Deer Lake). Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-invest-in-more-reliable-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-in-deer-lake-801494564.html>

<sup>1694</sup> Residents of Rural Regions in Quebec Will Benefit From Faster Internet 03/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-of-rural-regions-in-quebec-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-843817696.html>

<sup>1695</sup> Residents of Rural Regions in Quebec Will Benefit From Faster Internet 03/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Ottawa). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/residents-of-rural-regions-in-quebec-will-benefit-from-faster-internet-843817696.html>

<sup>1696</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island Invest in Three Sporting Facilities in Summerside for 2023 Canada Winter Games 04/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Summerside). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-three-sporting-facilities-in-summerside-for-2023-canada-winter-games-832369463.html>

and aims to support jobs, communities, and sustainably restore economic growth.<sup>1697</sup> This aligns with Canada's commitments to integrate social considerations in infrastructure investments and to maximize the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1698</sup>

On 4 August 2020, Minister McKenna, Minister Monsef and Minister of Infrastructure for Alberta Prasad Panda announced funding worth over CAD16.7 million towards six projects through the GIS and RNIS streams of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1699</sup> The funding "will create immediate and long-term jobs," and "help create healthier communities in southeastern Alberta," through the development of water infrastructure.<sup>1700</sup>

On 5 August 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD6.7 million towards "11 projects that will modernize and improve transit around Southwestern Ontario," as part of the PTIS stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1701</sup> The aim of these projects is to expand sustainable transit system capacities, extend their lifespans and upgrade transit technology systems, which aligns with Canada's commitment to maximize the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1702</sup>

On 5 August 2020, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Andy Fillmore announced the option for Nova Scotia to allocate 10 percent, or over CAD82 million, of the province's Investing in Canada infrastructure funding "towards projects under a new COVID Resilience funding stream."<sup>1703</sup> The aim of this initiative is to "help get more infrastructure projects

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<sup>1697</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island Invest in Three Sporting Facilities in Summerside for 2023 Canada Winter Games 04/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Summerside). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-three-sporting-facilities-in-summerside-for-2023-canada-winter-games-832369463.html>

<sup>1698</sup> Canada and Prince Edward Island Invest in Three Sporting Facilities in Summerside for 2023 Canada Winter Games 04/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Summerside). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-three-sporting-facilities-in-summerside-for-2023-canada-winter-games-832369463.html>

<sup>1699</sup> Canada and Alberta Invest in Healthier Communities with Recreation and Water Infrastructure for Residents of Southeastern Alberta 04/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Taber). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-healthier-communities-with-recreation-and-water-infrastructure-for-residents-of-southeastern-alberta-848323965.html>

<sup>1700</sup> Canada and Alberta Invest in Healthier Communities with Recreation and Water Infrastructure for Residents of Southeastern Alberta 04/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Taber). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-healthier-communities-with-recreation-and-water-infrastructure-for-residents-of-southeastern-alberta-848323965.html>

<sup>1701</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Southwestern Ontario Residents 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (St. Thomas). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-southwestern-ontario-residents-822839237.html>

<sup>1702</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Southwestern Ontario Residents 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (St. Thomas). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-southwestern-ontario-residents-822839237.html>

<sup>1703</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in Nova Scotia 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Halifax). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-nova-scotia-805116256.html>

underway faster, while continuing to support...long-term goals of building sustainable, economically vibrant, low-carbon, and inclusive communities.”<sup>1704</sup>

On 5 August 2020, Parliamentary Secretary Fillmore announced the option for Nova Scotia to allocate 10 per cent, or over CAD82 million, of the province’s Investing in Canada infrastructure budget towards projects under a new COVID Resilience funding stream.<sup>1705</sup> The aim of this initiative is to “help get more infrastructure projects underway faster, while continuing to support...long-term goals of building sustainable, economically vibrant, low-carbon, and inclusive communities.”<sup>1706</sup>

On 6 August 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced the option for British Columbia to allocate 10 percent, or over CAD412 million, of the province’s Investing in Canada federal infrastructure budget towards projects under a new COVID Resilience funding stream.<sup>1707</sup> The aim of this initiative is to “help get more infrastructure projects underway faster, while continuing to support...long-term goals of building sustainable, economically vibrant, low-carbon, and inclusive communities.”<sup>1708</sup>

On 6 August 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding of over CAD39.7 million for five public transit and active transportation projects in Greater Sudbury as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1709</sup> The funding will purchase 53 new buses and go towards improving transit services in the region’s busiest areas, introducing a new smart-card technology and reducing future maintenance costs.<sup>1710</sup> This aligns with Canada’s commitment to raising economic efficiency in view of life cycle costs and maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1711</sup>

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<sup>1704</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in Nova Scotia 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Halifax). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-nova-scotia-805116256.html>

<sup>1705</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in Nova Scotia 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Halifax). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-nova-scotia-805116256.html>

<sup>1706</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in Nova Scotia 05/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Halifax). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-nova-scotia-805116256.html>

<sup>1707</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in British Columbia 06/08/2020, Canada Newswire (North Vancouver). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-british-columbia-884026834.html>

<sup>1708</sup> Expanded Infrastructure Program Offers New Support for COVID-19 Community Resilience in British Columbia 06/08/2020, Canada Newswire (North Vancouver). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/expanded-infrastructure-program-offers-new-support-for-covid-19-community-resilience-in-british-columbia-884026834.html>

<sup>1709</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Sustainable Public Transit for Greater Sudbury Residents 06/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Greater Sudbury). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-greater-sudbury-residents-808621659.html>

<sup>1710</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Sustainable Public Transit for Greater Sudbury Residents 06/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Greater Sudbury). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-greater-sudbury-residents-808621659.html>

<sup>1711</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Sustainable Public Transit for Greater Sudbury Residents 06/08/2020, Canada Newswire (Greater Sudbury). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-for-greater-sudbury-residents-808621659.html>

On 6 August 2020, Minister Monsef and Ontario's Minister Scott announced funding worth over CAD9.7 million for five road and bridge projects in rural Ontario as part of the RNIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1712</sup> The projects are intended to improve public safety, reliability and traffic flow for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, as well as to reduce operating and maintenance costs.<sup>1713</sup>

On 6 August 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding worth CAD1.2 million as part of the RNIS of the Investing in Canada plan to rehabilitate and expand the Moose Jaw Municipal Airport.<sup>1714</sup> The aim of the funding is to improve the local economy and increase safety, and aligns with Canada's commitment to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1715</sup>

On 7 August 2020, Minister Monsef and New Brunswick's Minister responsible for the Regional Development Corporation Andrea Anderson-Mason announced funding worth over CAD16.1 million through the RNIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure program to upgrade a sewerage commission wastewater treatment plant in New Brunswick.<sup>1716</sup> The aim of the project is to "increase the capacity to treat and manage wastewater," and strengthen the local economics of communities in the greater Shediac region.<sup>1717</sup>

On 7 August 2020, Minister Wilkinson and Minister responsible for Parks Canada Mark Gerretsen announced almost CAD6 million in funding "for projects aimed at the restoration of ecosystems and the recovery of species at risk in...[the] Georgian Bay Islands and Thousand Islands national parks."<sup>1718</sup> The aim of the funding is to support conservation and restoration of Canada parks, to

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<sup>1712</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Roads and Bridges, Connecting Rural Communities 06/06/2020, Newswire (Brant County). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-connecting-rural-communities-880846978.html>

<sup>1713</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Roads and Bridges, Connecting Rural Communities 06/06/2020, Newswire (Brant County). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-roads-and-bridges-connecting-rural-communities-880846978.html>

<sup>1714</sup> Canada and Saskatchewan Invest in Improvements at Moose Jaw Municipal Airport 06/08/2020, Newswire (Moose Jaw). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-saskatchewan-invest-in-improvements-at-moose-jaw-municipal-airport-891340828.html>

<sup>1715</sup> Canada and Saskatchewan Invest in Improvements at Moose Jaw Municipal Airport 06/08/2020, Newswire (Moose Jaw). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-saskatchewan-invest-in-improvements-at-moose-jaw-municipal-airport-891340828.html>

<sup>1716</sup> Canada and News Brunswick Invest in Improved Wastewater Facilities for Residents of Greater Shediac 07/08/2020, Newswire (Boudreau-Ouest). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-new-brunswick-invest-in-improved-wastewater-facilities-for-residents-of-greater-shediac-804877234.html>

<sup>1717</sup> Canada and News Brunswick Invest in Improved Wastewater Facilities for Residents of Greater Shediac 07/08/2020, Newswire (Boudreau-Ouest). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-new-brunswick-invest-in-improved-wastewater-facilities-for-residents-of-greater-shediac-804877234.html>

<sup>1718</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Conservation Projects at National Parks in Ontario to Fight Climate Change 07/08/2020, Newswire (Kingston). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-conservation-projects-at-national-parks-in-ontario-to-fight-climate-change-887320384.html>



support local jobs in the regions and to help Canada rebuild better following the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1719</sup>

On 10 August 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding of over CAD17 million towards eight new public transit and active transportation projects in the City of Kingston as part of the PTIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1720</sup> The aim of the projects is to “make it safer and easier for residents to commute to their destinations or to directly access public transit,” while improving reliability and reducing emissions of the pre-existing transit system.<sup>1721</sup>

On 18 August 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding worth CAD4 million as part of the RNIS Investing in Canada plan to upgrade water and wastewater systems in Glace Bay.<sup>1722</sup> The funding aims to strengthen the local economies of the rural communities, and by installing new sanitary, storm water, and water distribution mains, to “improve the quality of services for residents and protect the environment.”<sup>1723</sup>

On 20 August 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD318.9 million towards “the rehabilitation of existing water pipes, pumping stations and water treatment facilities as well as the construction of new facilities,” as part of the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.<sup>1724</sup> The aim of the funding is to help build healthy, resilient communities and to create jobs, which aligns with Canada’s commitment to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1725</sup>

On 20 August 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced funding worth approximately CAD18.3 million as part of the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund.<sup>1726</sup> The funding will go towards improving energy efficiency and introducing renewable energy in 45 buildings across six communities in

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<sup>1719</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Conservation Projects at National Parks in Ontario to Fight Climate Change 07/08/2020, Newswire (Kingston). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-conservation-projects-at-national-parks-in-ontario-to-fight-climate-change-887320384.html>

<sup>1720</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Sustainable Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Kingston Residents 10/08/2020, Newswire (Kingston). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-kingston-residents-895804381.html>

<sup>1721</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Sustainable Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Kingston Residents 10/08/2020, Newswire (Kingston). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-sustainable-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-kingston-residents-895804381.html>

<sup>1722</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia Invest in Upgraded Water and Wastewater Systems for Glace Bay Residents 18/08/2020, Newswire (Glace Bay). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-upgraded-water-and-wastewater-systems-for-glace-bay-residents-831371709.html>

<sup>1723</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia Invest in Upgraded Water and Wastewater Systems for Glace Bay Residents 18/08/2020, Newswire (Glace Bay). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-upgraded-water-and-wastewater-systems-for-glace-bay-residents-831371709.html>

<sup>1724</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Provide Reliable Services and Restart the Economy 20/08/2020, Newswire (Montreal). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-provide-reliable-services-and-restart-the-economy-878667016.html>

<sup>1725</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Provide Reliable Services and Restart the Economy 20/08/2020, Newswire (Montreal). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-provide-reliable-services-and-restart-the-economy-878667016.html>

<sup>1726</sup> Government of Canada Partners with Nunavut for Renewable and Energy-Efficiency Projects 20/08/2020, Newswire (Iqaluit). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects-884577430.html>

Nunavut, with the aim of creating jobs, generating business for local Inuit and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1727</sup>

On 24 August 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD6.5 million through the GIS, CCRIS, and RNIS of the Investing in Canada plan to go towards three projects that will build or improve infrastructure across the Yukon.<sup>1728</sup> The aim of these projects is to “improve the quality of life for Yukon residents, and create immediate and long-term jobs,” which aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrating social considerations in its infrastructure investment and to maximize the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1729</sup>

On 28 August 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef announced funding worth over CAD13.4 million through the PTIS and RNIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to go towards 15 transportation projects in North Bay.<sup>1730</sup> The aim of these projects is to improve the accessibility, safety and quality of existing public transit for local residents, which aligns with Canada’s commitment to maximize the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1731</sup>

On 28 August 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef announced funding worth over CAD1.2 million through the PTIS and RNIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to go towards public transit in Temiskaming Shores and Coleman Township.<sup>1732</sup> The aim of the project is to improve traffic flow and emergency service response times, as well as safety, reliability, and ease of travel for residents.<sup>1733</sup>

On 28 August 2020, Minister McKenna, Minister O’Regan and Minister Wilkinson announced funding worth over CAD3.7 million to go towards building a net-zero emissions fire station in Port

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<sup>1727</sup> Government of Canada Partners with Nunavut for Renewable and Energy-Efficiency Projects 20/08/2020, Newswire (Iqaluit). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects-884577430.html>

<sup>1728</sup> Canada and Yukon Invest in Infrastructure to Support Communities and the Economy 24/08/2020, Newswire (Dawson City). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-yukon-invest-in-infrastructure-to-support-communities-and-the-economy-821450745.html>

<sup>1729</sup> Canada and Yukon Invest in Infrastructure to Support Communities and the Economy 24/08/2020, Newswire (Dawson City). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-yukon-invest-in-infrastructure-to-support-communities-and-the-economy-821450745.html>

<sup>1730</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Public Transit, Active Transportation and Road Infrastructure for North Bay Area Residents 28/08/2020, Newswire (North Bay). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-public-transit-active-transportation-and-road-infrastructure-for-north-bay-area-residents-831028617.html>

<sup>1731</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Improved Public Transit, Active Transportation and Road Infrastructure for North Bay Area Residents 28/08/2020, Newswire (North Bay). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-improved-public-transit-active-transportation-and-road-infrastructure-for-north-bay-area-residents-831028617.html>

<sup>1732</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit and Bridge Infrastructure for Residents of Temiskaming Shores and Coleman Township 28/08/2020, Newswire (Temiskaming Shores). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-and-bridge-infrastructure-for-residents-of-temiskaming-shores-and-coleman-township-854804266.html>

<sup>1733</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit and Bridge Infrastructure for Residents of Temiskaming Shores and Coleman Township 28/08/2020, Newswire (Temiskaming Shores). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-and-bridge-infrastructure-for-residents-of-temiskaming-shores-and-coleman-township-854804266.html>

Stanley.<sup>1734</sup> The aim of the project is to lower operation costs and to “help make Port Stanley a more sustainable, healthy community,” which aligns with Canada’s commitments to maximize the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development and to integrate environmental considerations into its infrastructure investments, as well as to reduce life-cycle costs.<sup>1735</sup>

On 1 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD660,500 through the PTIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to go towards two projects “that will modernize Quinte West’s transit system and create a more sustainable community.”<sup>1736</sup> The aim of the funding is to develop a sustainable public transit system and improve capacity and accessibility for residents.<sup>1737</sup>

On 1 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD28.5 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to go towards 11 projects “to help B.C. communities save energy and reduce pollution.”<sup>1738</sup> Further, the funding aims to create jobs, strengthen local economies and promote sustainable growth.<sup>1739</sup>

On 2 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef announced funding worth over CAD87.7 million through the GIS, CCRIS and RNIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to go towards 18 infrastructure projects in Northern Alberta.<sup>1740</sup> These projects will aim to protect communities from flooding, upgrade wastewater and drinking infrastructure, improve roads, and increase access to arts and outdoor recreation opportunities.<sup>1741</sup>

On 4 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD4.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan for two infrastructure projects that will “upgrade municipal drinking water, storm-water management and wastewater collection systems in

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<sup>1734</sup> Canada and Federation of Canadian Municipalities Invest in Green Communities in Port Stanley 28/08/2020, Newswire (Port Stanley). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-federation-of-canadian-municipalities-invest-in-green-communities-in-port-stanley-807976795.html>

<sup>1735</sup> Canada and Federation of Canadian Municipalities Invest in Green Communities in Port Stanley 28/08/2020, Newswire (Port Stanley). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-federation-of-canadian-municipalities-invest-in-green-communities-in-port-stanley-807976795.html>

<sup>1736</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit Infrastructure for Residents of quinte West 01/09/2020, Newswire (Quinte West). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-infrastructure-for-residents-of-quinte-west-862139025.html>

<sup>1737</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit Infrastructure for Residents of quinte West 01/09/2020, Newswire (Quinte West). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-infrastructure-for-residents-of-quinte-west-862139025.html>

<sup>1738</sup> Canada and British Columbia Invest in Green Energy Solutions 01/0/2020, Newswire (Vancouver). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-green-energy-solutions-838927386.html>

<sup>1739</sup> Canada and British Columbia Invest in Green Energy Solutions 01/0/2020, Newswire (Vancouver). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-british-columbia-invest-in-green-energy-solutions-838927386.html>

<sup>1740</sup> Canada and Alberta Invest in Infrastructure Projects in Northern Alberta to Strengthen the Economy and build Resilient Communities 02/09/2020, Newswire (Fort McMurray). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-infrastructure-projects-in-northern-alberta-to-strengthen-the-economy-and-build-resilient-communities-835107138.html>

<sup>1741</sup> Canada and Alberta Invest in Infrastructure Projects in Northern Alberta to Strengthen the Economy and build Resilient Communities 02/09/2020, Newswire (Fort McMurray). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-infrastructure-projects-in-northern-alberta-to-strengthen-the-economy-and-build-resilient-communities-835107138.html>

the Laval region.”<sup>1742</sup> These projects aim to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure, which aligns with Canada’s commitments to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1743</sup>

On 4 September 2020, Minister Joly announced funding worth CAD3 million to “help small and medium-sized businesses adopt new products and technologies that improve the energy efficiency of buildings and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.”<sup>1744</sup>

On 4 September 2020, Minister McKenna, Quebec’s Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Andrée Laforest and Quebec’s Minister of Public Safety and Minister Responsible for the Quebec City Region Geneviève Guilbault announced funding worth over CAD32 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan for 28 infrastructure projects in the Quebec City region.<sup>1745</sup> The funding will go towards “upgrades to municipal drinking water, storm-water management and wastewater collection systems, and the addition of new pumping stations,” to meet the needs of the local communities.<sup>1746</sup>

On 9 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD1.8 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure in Paspébiac, Quebec.<sup>1747</sup> The aim of the funding is to replace almost 4,600 metres of drinking water, storm-water and wastewater pipes and to restore and landscape roads along the pipe replacement.<sup>1748</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth approximately CAD570,000 as part of the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to

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<sup>1742</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Laval Region 04/09/2020, Newswire (Laval). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-laval-region-889723826.html>

<sup>1743</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Laval Region 04/09/2020, Newswire (Laval). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-laval-region-889723826.html>

<sup>1744</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Alberta’s Construction Industry to Help Strengthen Energy Efficiency and Green Building Practices 04/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Edmonton). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-alberta-s-construction-industry-to-help-strengthen-energy-efficiency-and-green-building-practices-855458407.html>

<sup>1745</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Quebec City Region 04/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Quebec City). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-quebec-city-region-826316756.html>

<sup>1746</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Quebec City Region 04/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Quebec City). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-quebec-city-region-826316756.html>

<sup>1747</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services in Paspébiac 09/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Paspébiac). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-in-paspebiac-877555514.html>

<sup>1748</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services in Paspébiac 09/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Paspébiac). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-in-paspebiac-877555514.html>

invest in green infrastructure projects that will provide communities in Nord-du-Québec with modernised drinking water and wastewater systems.<sup>1749</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD7.9 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Outaouais region.<sup>1750</sup> The aim of the funding is to sustainably replace drinking water, storm-water and wastewater pipes.<sup>1751</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD21 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Bas-Saint-Laurent region.<sup>1752</sup> The aim of the funding is through 20 infrastructure projects, to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1753</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD77.5 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Montréal region.<sup>1754</sup> Through 46 infrastructure projects, the aim of the funding is to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1755</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth almost CAD5 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern

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<sup>1749</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Nord-du-Québec Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Chibougameau). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-nord-du-quebec-region-885453238.html>

<sup>1750</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Outaouais Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gatineau). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-outaouais-region-808264265.html>

<sup>1751</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Outaouais Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gatineau). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-outaouais-region-808264265.html>

<sup>1752</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Bas-Saint-Laurent Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Rimouski). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-bas-saint-laurent-region-822774478.html>

<sup>1753</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Bas-Saint-Laurent Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Rimouski). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-bas-saint-laurent-region-822774478.html>

<sup>1754</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Montréal region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Longueuil). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-monteregie-region-850627461.html>

<sup>1755</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Montréal region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Longueuil). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-monteregie-region-850627461.html>

and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region.<sup>1756</sup> Through six infrastructure projects, the aim of the funding is to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1757</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD36.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Chaudière-Appalaches region.<sup>1758</sup> Through 55 infrastructure projects, the aim of the funding is to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems and to add new pumping stations and manganese treatment systems.<sup>1759</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD16.4 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Estrie region.<sup>1760</sup> Through 18 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1761</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD5.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine region.<sup>1762</sup>

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<sup>1756</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Rouyn-Noranda). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-abitibi-temiscamingue-region-806820231.html>

<sup>1757</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Rouyn-Noranda). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-abitibi-temiscamingue-region-806820231.html>

<sup>1758</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Chaudière-Appalaches Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Lévis). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-chaudiere-appalaches-region-852856465.html>

<sup>1759</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Chaudière-Appalaches Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Lévis). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-chaudiere-appalaches-region-852856465.html>

<sup>1760</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Estrie Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Lac-Mégantic). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-estrie-region-882551190.html>

<sup>1761</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Estrie Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Lac-Mégantic). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-estrie-region-882551190.html>

<sup>1762</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gaspé). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-gaspesie-iles-de-la-madeleine-region-883111011.html>

Through nine infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems and to add new pumping stations.<sup>1763</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD14.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Laurentides region.<sup>1764</sup> Through 18 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1765</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD2.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Côte-Nord region.<sup>1766</sup> Through three infrastructure projects, the funding aims to “replace over 6.6 km of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water pipes, add new storm water pipes for sewer separation, and rehabilitate wastewater pumping stations.”<sup>1767</sup>

On 12 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD9.3 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Mauricie region.<sup>1768</sup> Through 15 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems and to add new pumping stations.<sup>1769</sup>

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<sup>1763</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Gaspésie-Îles-de-la-Madeleine Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gaspé). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-gaspesie-iles-de-la-madeleine-region-883111011.html>

<sup>1764</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Laurentides Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Saint-Jérôme). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-laurentides-region-845618569.html>

<sup>1765</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Laurentides Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Saint-Jérôme). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-laurentides-region-845618569.html>

<sup>1766</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Côte-Nord Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Sept-Îles). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-cote-nord-region-874188932.html>

<sup>1767</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Côte-Nord Region 11/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Sept-Îles). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-cote-nord-region-874188932.html>

<sup>1768</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Mauricie Region 12/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Trois-Rivières). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-mauricie-region-808354949.html>

<sup>1769</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Mauricie Region 12/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Trois-Rivières). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-mauricie-region-808354949.html>

On 14 September 2020, Minister McKenna and FCM President Bill Karsten announced over CAD8.7 in funding for four projects in Alberta through the Green Municipal Fund.<sup>1770</sup> The projects aim to “develop innovative solutions to reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency and find new uses for public infrastructure,” such as piloting electric and hybrid waste collection trucks in Calgary and testing the feasibility of recycled storm water use in Edmonton.<sup>1771</sup>

On 14 September 2020, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller announced funding of CAD16.8 million “for the development of infrastructure for future residential use [on the Salt River reserve], increasing the number of homes...and creating new jobs.”<sup>1772</sup> This includes upgrading sewer and water systems, and aligns with Canada’s commitments to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development and integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investments.<sup>1773</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD19.3 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Centre-du-Québec region.<sup>1774</sup> Through 21 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1775</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Mr. Karsten announced funding of over CAD236,000 through the GMF for three green projects “to develop innovative solutions to reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency and find new uses for public infrastructure.”<sup>1776</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD12.9 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to provide modern

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<sup>1770</sup> Sustainability Gets a Boost in Alberta with Federal Funding for Green Projects Through FCM 14/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Calgary). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/sustainability-gets-a-boost-in-alberta-with-federal-funding-for-green-projects-through-fcm-882625418.html>

<sup>1771</sup> Sustainability Gets a Boost in Alberta with Federal Funding for Green Projects Through FCM 14/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Calgary). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/sustainability-gets-a-boost-in-alberta-with-federal-funding-for-green-projects-through-fcm-882625418.html>

<sup>1772</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Major Infrastructure Development for Salt River First Nation 14/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa and Traditional Algonquin Territory). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-major-infrastructure-development-for-salt-river-first-nation-819066789.html>

<sup>1773</sup> Government of Canada Invests in Major Infrastructure Development for Salt River First Nation 14/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa and Traditional Algonquin Territory). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-invests-in-major-infrastructure-development-for-salt-river-first-nation-819066789.html>

<sup>1774</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Centre-du-Québec Region 15/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Drummondville). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-centre-du-quebec-region-805979903.html>

<sup>1775</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Centre-du-Québec Region 15/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Drummondville). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-centre-du-quebec-region-805979903.html>

<sup>1776</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Communities in the Outaouais Region 15/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Wakefield). Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-the-outaouais-region-859451382.html>



and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Lanaudière region.<sup>1777</sup> Through 11 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1778</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Minister McKenna, Minister Wilkinson and Mr. Karsten announced over CAD540,000 in funding through GMF for two projects in Nova Scotia.<sup>1779</sup> The aim of the funding is “to develop innovative solutions to reduce pollution, improve energy efficiency, and find new uses for public infrastructure.”<sup>1780</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Minister Monsef announced funding of CAD5.6 million through the Connect to Innovate program for the construction of a 40-kilometre fibre-optic line in rural British Columbia.<sup>1781</sup> The project is to be completed in October 2020 and aims to “help expand the interaction Canadians have within and outside their communities, providing opportunities for success,” especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1782</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Minister of Transport Marc Garneau announced over CAD25 million in funding over three years to support 165 new projects as part of the Rail Safety Improvement program.<sup>1783</sup> The funding aims to “increase safety and Canadian’s confidence at grade crossing and along rail lines,” and aligns with Canada’s commitment to integrate social considerations into its infrastructure commitments.<sup>1784</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Monsef announced over CAD1 million in funding “for two projects to provide residents with cleaner water and safer roads in Harbour Grace

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<sup>1777</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Lanaudière Region 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Terrebonne). Access Date: 20 September 2020.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-lanaudiere-region-826255639.html>

<sup>1778</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Lanaudière Region 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Terrebonne). Access Date: 20 September 2020.

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-lanaudiere-region-826255639.html>

<sup>1779</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Communities in Nova Scotia 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Kings County). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-nova-scotia-898229217.html>

<sup>1780</sup> Canada and FCM Invest in Green Communities in Nova Scotia 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Kings County). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-nova-scotia-898229217.html>

<sup>1781</sup> Rural British Columbia to Benefit from Improved Connectivity 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/rural-british-columbia-to-benefit-from-improved-connectivity-866783845.html>

<sup>1782</sup> Rural British Columbia to Benefit from Improved Connectivity 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/rural-british-columbia-to-benefit-from-improved-connectivity-866783845.html>

<sup>1783</sup> Government of Canada Announces Ongoing Investments to Improve Railway Safety 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-ongoing-investments-to-improve-railway-safety-830907313.html>

<sup>1784</sup> Government of Canada Announces Ongoing Investments to Improve Railway Safety 17/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Ottawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-announces-ongoing-investments-to-improve-railway-safety-830907313.html>

and Spaniard's Bay.<sup>1785</sup> The funding is through the RNIS and GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan and aims to improve access to reliable services and to promote healthy communities for Newfoundland and Labrador residents.<sup>1786</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD45.3 million in funding “for 11 projects that will modernize and improve public transit and active transportation in Durham Region.”<sup>1787</sup> The funding aims to introduce hybrid electric vehicles and to replace aging vehicles to help reduce maintenance and operating costs.<sup>1788</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister Laforest announced funding worth over CAD9.4 million in funding through the GIS of the Investing in Canada plan to provide modern and reliable water infrastructure to communities in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean region.<sup>1789</sup> Through 11 infrastructure projects, the funding aims to sustainably upgrade drinking water, storm-water and wastewater collection systems.<sup>1790</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced over CAD1.9 million in funding through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to improve the quality of the water and sewer disposal system in East Hants.<sup>1791</sup> The project aims to ensure the health of residents and the community, which aligns with Canada's commitment to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development.<sup>1792</sup>

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<sup>1785</sup> Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador Investing in Projects that Provide Residents with Cleaner Water and Safer Roads in Harbour Grace and Spaniard's Bay 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Harbour Grace). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-investing-in-projects-that-provide-residents-with-cleaner-water-and-safer-roads-in-harbour-grace-and-spaniard-s-bay-810529206.html>

<sup>1786</sup> Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador Investing in Projects that Provide Residents with Cleaner Water and Safer Roads in Harbour Grace and Spaniard's Bay 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Harbour Grace). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-newfoundland-and-labrador-investing-in-projects-that-provide-residents-with-cleaner-water-and-safer-roads-in-harbour-grace-and-spaniard-s-bay-810529206.html>

<sup>1787</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Residents of Durham Region 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Oshawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-residents-of-durham-region-851460563.html>

<sup>1788</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern Public Transit and Active Transportation Infrastructure for Residents of Durham Region 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Oshawa). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-public-transit-and-active-transportation-infrastructure-for-residents-of-durham-region-851460563.html>

<sup>1789</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Region 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Saguenay). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-saguenay-lac-saint-jean-region-899107719.html>

<sup>1790</sup> Canada and Quebec Invest in Water Infrastructure to Ensure Adequate Services and Stimulate the Economy in the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean Region 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Saguenay). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-quebec-invest-in-water-infrastructure-to-ensure-adequate-services-and-stimulate-the-economy-in-the-saguenay-lac-saint-jean-region-899107719.html>

<sup>1791</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia Invest in Improved Water Quality for Residents of East Hants 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (East Hants). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-improved-water-quality-for-residents-of-east-hants-892632545.html>

<sup>1792</sup> Canada and Nova Scotia Invest in Improved Water Quality for Residents of East Hants 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (East Hants). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-improved-water-quality-for-residents-of-east-hants-892632545.html>

On 18 September 2020, Minister McKenna announced funding worth over CAD23 million through the PTIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan to strategically invest in 30 sustainable public transportation projects across Ontario.<sup>1793</sup> The aim of the projects is to “modernize, expand and improve the accessibility and safety of public transit,” which aligns with Canada’s commitments to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and to integrating both environmental and social considerations into its infrastructure investments.<sup>1794</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Minister McKenna and Minister of Families and Minister Responsible for the Outaouais Region Mathieu Lacombe announced funding of over CAD2.6 million through the GIS of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan for a water infrastructure project in Gatineau.<sup>1795</sup> The project aims to replace “approximately 4.9 kilometers of drinking water, wastewater, and storm water pipes including the addition of new storm water pipes for sewer separation,” as well as fund road restoration and roadway landscaping.<sup>1796</sup>

On 22 September 2020, Minister O’Regan announced CAD6.4 million in funding through the Clean Energy for Rural and Remote Communities program for five “community-led clean energy projects,” in the Yukon.<sup>1797</sup> The aim of the funding is to help achieve Canada’s commitment to transitioning Indigenous communities to cleaner energy sources by 2030 and to “support communities in their efforts to build a cleaner future...while creating jobs.”<sup>1798</sup>

On 22 September 2020, Minister O’Regan announced over CAD8 million in funding through the Clean Energy for rural and Remote Communities Program and Impact Canada’s Indigenous Off-diesel Initiative for “eight community-led clean energy projects” in the Northwest Territories.<sup>1799</sup> The aim of the funding is to help achieve Canada’s commitment to transitioning Indigenous communities to cleaner energy sources by 2030 and to “support communities in their efforts to build a cleaner future...while creating jobs.”<sup>1800</sup>

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<sup>1793</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern and More Accessible Public Transit Infrastructure Across Central, North and Southern Ontario 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Kawartha Lakes). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-and-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-across-central-north-and-southern-ontario-864674947.html>

<sup>1794</sup> Canada and Ontario Invest in Modern and More Accessible Public Transit Infrastructure Across Central, North and Southern Ontario 18/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Kawartha Lakes). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-and-ontario-invest-in-modern-and-more-accessible-public-transit-infrastructure-across-central-north-and-southern-ontario-864674947.html>

<sup>1795</sup> Federal-Provincial Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure for the City of Gatineau 21/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gatineau). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-provincial-funding-to-improve-water-infrastructure-for-the-city-of-gatineau-877808966.html>

<sup>1796</sup> Federal-Provincial Funding to Improve Water Infrastructure for the City of Gatineau 21/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Gatineau). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/federal-provincial-funding-to-improve-water-infrastructure-for-the-city-of-gatineau-877808966.html>

<sup>1797</sup> Government Invests in Clean Energy Initiatives in Yukon 22/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Whitehorse). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-invests-in-clean-energy-initiatives-in-yukon-822634395.html>

<sup>1798</sup> Government Invests in Clean Energy Initiatives in Yukon 22/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Whitehorse). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-invests-in-clean-energy-initiatives-in-yukon-822634395.html>

<sup>1799</sup> Canada Invests in Clean Energy Projects in the Northwest Territories 22/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Inuvik). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-clean-energy-projects-in-the-northwest-territories-861077964.html>

<sup>1800</sup> Canada Invests in Clean Energy Projects in the Northwest Territories 22/09/2020, Newswire Canada (Inuvik). Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-invests-in-clean-energy-projects-in-the-northwest-territories-861077964.html>

On 1 October 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD10 billion, three-year infrastructure plan to help create jobs and grow the economy.<sup>1801</sup> The plan aims to employ 60,000 through clean power, broadband, large-scale building retrofits to increase energy efficiency, agriculture irrigation, adoption of zero-emission buses and charging infrastructure, and project development and early construction works investments.<sup>1802</sup>

On 1 October 2020, Minister Monsef, Minister McKenna and Alberta's Minister Panda announced funding for four projects in Southern Alberta, including Indigenous communities, which have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1803</sup> The Government of Canada will invest more than CAD21.9 million as part of the Investing in Canada plan, the Government of Alberta will invest CAD125,000 and funding applicants will invest over CAD30.7 million in the University of Lethbridge, Red Crow Community College, and Medicine Hat College.<sup>1804</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng renewed the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Canada and Infrastructure Asia, attending a virtual ceremony alongside Singapore's Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance and National Development Indranee Rajah.<sup>1805</sup> This MOU has allowed and will continue to foster the ability of Canadian companies to expand into Southeast Asia and develop innovate and sustainable solutions for infrastructure projects.<sup>1806</sup>

On 8 October 2020, Minister Bibeau announced two new projects of nearly CAD900,000 under the Agricultural Clean Technology Program to assist Quebec farmers in innovative and emerging economic opportunities in the fight against climate change.<sup>1807</sup> One project is the first agricultural cooperation that will produce renewable energy in Quebec, Coop Agri-Énergie Warwick, and the other project is a college technology transfer center that will develop agro-industrial bioproducts, Innofibre.<sup>1808</sup>

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<sup>1801</sup> Canada launches C\$10 billion infrastructure plan to aid economic recovery, Reuters (Ottawa) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-politics-infrastructure-idUSKBN26M6NW>

<sup>1802</sup> Canada launches C\$10 billion infrastructure plan to aid economic recovery, Reuters (Ottawa) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-canada-politics-infrastructure-idUSKBN26M6NW>

<sup>1803</sup> Canada and Alberta invest in infrastructure projects in Southern Alberta to strengthen the economy and build resilient communities, Government of Canada (Lethbridge) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/10/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-infrastructure-projects-in-southern-alberta-to-strengthen-the-economy-and-build-resilient-communities.html>

<sup>1804</sup> Canada and Alberta invest in infrastructure projects in Southern Alberta to strengthen the economy and build resilient communities, Government of Canada (Lethbridge) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/10/canada-and-alberta-invest-in-infrastructure-projects-in-southern-alberta-to-strengthen-the-economy-and-build-resilient-communities.html>

<sup>1805</sup> Minister Ng participates in signing of MOU renewal on infrastructure trade and investment in Asia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/10/minister-ng-participates-in-signing-of-mou-renewal-on-infrastructure-trade-and-investment-in-asia.html>

<sup>1806</sup> Minister Ng participates in signing of MOU renewal on infrastructure trade and investment in Asia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/10/minister-ng-participates-in-signing-of-mou-renewal-on-infrastructure-trade-and-investment-in-asia.html>

<sup>1807</sup> Supporting Quebec farmers' sustainable clean technology projects, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/10/supporting-quebec-farmers-sustainable-clean-technology-projects.html>

<sup>1808</sup> Supporting Quebec farmers' sustainable clean technology projects, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/10/supporting-quebec-farmers-sustainable-clean-technology-projects.html>

On 8 October 2020, the Government of Canada announced an investment of CAD417,000, on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, for an energy efficiency infrastructure project in four New Brunswick communities.<sup>1809</sup> The projects will “replace existing fuel-burning furnace heating systems with high-efficiency biomass boilers and improve energy efficiency in four municipal buildings...to reduce heating costs and greenhouse gas emissions, generate energy savings, promote local expertise and resources, and enhance job creation locally.”<sup>1810</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Government of Canada through Indigenous Services Canada announced its support of CAD1 million for an infrastructure project being undertaken in Membertou that will offer modern rental space for local organizations and businesses.<sup>1811</sup> This funding comes from the Community Opportunity Readiness Project.<sup>1812</sup>

On 9 October 2020, Minister Joly announced CAD13.4 million to support promising health tech businesses and organizations, thereby creating nearly 500 skilled jobs.<sup>1813</sup> The funding will be invested in the Toronto Innovation Acceleration Partners, MindBeacon Holdings Inc., Cyclica Inc., and Healthism Systems Inc to “scale up their innovations.”<sup>1814</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Government of Canada announced a new investment of CAD33.4 million for the construction of a nearly 100,000 square metre multipurpose terminal west of the Port of Trois-Rivières’ existing infrastructure.<sup>1815</sup> The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and

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<sup>1809</sup> Canada and FCM invest in green communities in New Brunswick, Government of Canada (Atholville) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/10/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-new-brunswick.html>

<sup>1810</sup> Canada and FCM invest in green communities in New Brunswick, Government of Canada (Atholville) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/10/canada-and-fcm-invest-in-green-communities-in-new-brunswick.html>

<sup>1811</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the construction of new office space in Membertou First Nation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-construction-of-new-office-space-in-membertou-first-nation.html>

<sup>1812</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the construction of new office space in Membertou First Nation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-construction-of-new-office-space-in-membertou-first-nation.html>

<sup>1813</sup> Federal Investments to boost Toronto’s Health Tech Sector, Government of Canada (Toronto) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/10/federal-investments-to-boost-torontos-health-tech-sector.html>

<sup>1814</sup> Federal Investments to boost Toronto’s Health Tech Sector, Government of Canada (Toronto) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/10/federal-investments-to-boost-torontos-health-tech-sector.html>

<sup>1815</sup> Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure at the Port of Trois-Rivières to move goods to market, Government of Canada (Trois-Rivières) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-at-the-port-of-trois-rivieres-to-move-goods-to-market.html>

eliminate current bottleneck issues.<sup>1816</sup> Furthermore, it will create 630 jobs and contribute to economic recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1817</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration. Canada is maximizing the impact of its new infrastructure through actions that are in line with five of the principles outlined: strengthening infrastructure governance, encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, integrating environmental considerations, and building resilience against natural disasters and other risks.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgia Gibbings*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 13 September 2019, the National Development and Reform Commission approved the construction of a new high-speed railway linking the southwestern cities of Chongqing and Kunming.<sup>1818</sup> The project is aimed at advancing development of the Yangtze River economic belt, accelerating the construction of the high-speed rail corridor between Beijing and Kunming, strengthening ties between city clusters and promoting economic and social development and poverty reduction along the route.<sup>1819</sup>

On 15 November 2019, National Development and Reform Commission approved development projects for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, involving projects for the region in aspects like infrastructural connectivity, ecological and environmental protection, industrial development and inter-city railway.<sup>1820</sup>

On 28 November 2019, China launched a national information monitoring and service platform for public-private partnership (PPP) projects, with urban infrastructure reporting 2,734 projects with a total investment of CNY4.18 trillion. This new platform and associated processes allow for some

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<sup>1816</sup> Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure at the Port of Trois-Rivières to move goods to market, Government of Canada (Trois-Rivières) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-at-the-port-of-trois-rivieres-to-move-goods-to-market.html>

<sup>1817</sup> Government of Canada invests in transportation infrastructure at the Port of Trois-Rivières to move goods to market, Government of Canada (Trois-Rivières) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-invests-in-transportation-infrastructure-at-the-port-of-trois-rivieres-to-move-goods-to-market.html>

<sup>1818</sup> NDRC approves high-speed rail project in SW China, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) September 2019. Access Date: February 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201909/13/content\\_WS5d7b8d50c6d0bcf8c4c1357a.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201909/13/content_WS5d7b8d50c6d0bcf8c4c1357a.html).

<sup>1819</sup> NDRC approves high-speed rail project in SW China, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) September 2019. Access Date: February 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201909/13/content\\_WS5d7b8d50c6d0bcf8c4c1357a.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201909/13/content_WS5d7b8d50c6d0bcf8c4c1357a.html).

<sup>1820</sup> China to accelerate approvals of development projects for Greater Bay Area, Xinhua Net (Xinhua) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/15/c\\_138558657.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/15/c_138558657.htm).

transparency and oversight of PPP projects, including through the release of supervision reports and warnings on “abnormal” projects.<sup>1821</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the China National Petroleum Corporation announced that natural gas will start flowing through the China-Russia east route natural gas pipeline and will help meet clean energy demand in several places across Northeast China, the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the Yangtze River Delta area. “It will not only increase gas supplies to targeted areas, but also has great significance in improving pipeline infrastructure construction and interconnection, as well as enticing market competition to reduce gas costs.” This will support the economic growth of the country as well.<sup>1822</sup>

On 1 December 2019, the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council jointly issued an outline for the integrated regional development of the Yangtze River Delta, which maps development for a 358,000-square km expanse and will establish a coordinated innovative industry system, enhancing connectivity of infrastructure and strengthening environmental protection.<sup>1823</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council issued a plan on the construction of national culture parks for the Great Wall, the Beijing-Hangzhou Grand Canal and the Long March. China aims to complete the construction of the parks by 2023 with related cultural resources enjoying better protection, inheritance and utilization.<sup>1824</sup>

On 9 January 2020, Ministry of Water Resources announced China spent a record CNY726 billion (USD104.46 billion) on water conservation infrastructure projects in 2019, with improved drinking water quality in rural areas that benefited 54.8 million people. The country also addressed the problem of excessive fluoride in drinking water for 6.15 million rural people.<sup>1825</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Finance announced the first batch of 55 pilot counties for water system connectivity and comprehensive improvement of rural water systems.<sup>1826</sup> The central government has allocated CNY2.5 billion to 55 pilot counties to fight rural water pollution.<sup>1827</sup> The ministries will guide the pilot counties in water conservation and water system connectivity, as well as pollution source control, river and lake management and other systematic control measures.<sup>1828</sup>

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<sup>1821</sup> China launches national information platform for PPP projects, Xinhua Net (Xinhua) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/28/c\\_138590218.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/28/c_138590218.htm).

<sup>1822</sup> China National Petroleum Corporation announces new oil and gas reserves, Xinhua Net (Xinhua) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/29/c\\_138434343.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/29/c_138434343.htm).

<sup>1823</sup> China outlines integrated development of Yangtze River Delta, China Daily (Beijing) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201912/01/WS5de3c955a310cf3e3557b2ff.html>.

<sup>1824</sup> China issues plan on building national culture parks, Xinhua Net (Xinhua) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/06/c\\_138610561.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/06/c_138610561.htm)

<sup>1825</sup> China spends record capital on water conservation in 2019, China Daily (Beijing) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202001/10/WS5e17d849a310cf3e35583ac7.html>.

<sup>1826</sup> Central government allocates 2.5b yuan for rural water ecology (Beijing). 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content\\_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html)

<sup>1827</sup> Central government allocates 2.5b yuan for rural water ecology (Beijing). 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content\\_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html)

<sup>1828</sup> Central government allocates 2.5b yuan for rural water ecology (Beijing). 5 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content\\_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/05/content_WS5eb16575c6d0b3f0e9497022.html)

On 9 May 2020, Chinese authorities released a guideline to promote digital technologies in rural areas as part of their efforts to advance agricultural and rural modernization.<sup>1829</sup> The guideline, jointly issued by four government departments including the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, detailed measures to support the use of information technology in epidemic control, as well as economic and social development in rural areas.<sup>1830</sup> The guideline encouraged the use of technologies like big data, artificial intelligence, remote intelligent agricultural machinery and online services in areas such as spring farming, and vocational training and recruitment of migrant workers.<sup>1831</sup>

On 20 May, 2020 Chinese megacities such as Beijing and Tianjin have planned to enhance their public health emergency response capacity to better safeguard people's health.<sup>1832</sup> Beijing has vowed to build a stronger public health emergency management system by 2035 as the capital city aims to become a world-class city by then, according to the municipal authorities.<sup>1833</sup> According to a three-year action plan on strengthening the emergency management system for public health security in the capital (2020-2022), Beijing will establish a linkage mechanism for prevention, clinical practice, scientific research, treatment and emergency project approval.<sup>1834</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said in a 2020 work plan on June 10 that it will step up efforts to encourage the construction of a batch of industrial internet data centers across China as part of its broader push to accelerate an industrial upgrade.<sup>1835</sup> Liu Duo, head of the government think tank the China Academy of Information and Communications Technology, said the industrial internet is being increasingly used in manufacturing, healthcare, energy, smart ports and other sectors in China.<sup>1836</sup>

On 24 June 2020, according to National Development and Reform Commission, China will allocate a total of CNY3.5 billion from the central budget to promote the building of the Hainan free trade port.<sup>1837</sup> Targeted support will be offered to long-term projects, including monitoring facilities in comprehensive bonded zones, tourism-related infrastructure, as well as projects concerning epidemic prevention and control.<sup>1838</sup>

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<sup>1829</sup> China to further empower rural development with digital technologies (Beijing). 9 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content\\_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html)

<sup>1830</sup> China to further empower rural development with digital technologies (Beijing). 9 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content\\_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html)

<sup>1831</sup> China to further empower rural development with digital technologies (Beijing). 9 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content\\_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/09/content_WS5eb6ac70c6d0b3f0e949746c.html)

<sup>1832</sup> Megacities expand efforts to protect public health (Beijing) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content\\_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html)

<sup>1833</sup> Megacities expand efforts to protect public health (Beijing) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content\\_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html)

<sup>1834</sup> Megacities expand efforts to protect public health (Beijing) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content\\_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202005/20/content_WS5ec4d586c6d0b3f0e9498063.html)

<sup>1835</sup> China to build data center for industrial internet (Beijing) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/11/content\\_WS5f0914f4c6d06c4091250be6.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/11/content_WS5f0914f4c6d06c4091250be6.html)

<sup>1836</sup> China to build data center for industrial internet (Beijing) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/11/content\\_WS5f0914f4c6d06c4091250be6.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/11/content_WS5f0914f4c6d06c4091250be6.html)

<sup>1837</sup> China to allocate billions for building of Hainan free trade port (Beijing) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/24/content\\_WS5ef28e1fc6d0a6946639c9ca.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/24/content_WS5ef28e1fc6d0a6946639c9ca.html)

<sup>1838</sup> China to allocate billions for building of Hainan free trade port (Beijing) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/24/content\\_WS5ef28e1fc6d0a6946639c9ca.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/24/content_WS5ef28e1fc6d0a6946639c9ca.html)



On 24 July 2020, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced it will step up efforts to advance the construction of battery swap infrastructure in the latest move to promote quality growth of the new-energy vehicle (NEV) sector.<sup>1839</sup> Leading the world in NEV output and sales in the past five years, China has built 38,000 battery charging stations, 449 battery swap stations, and 1.3 million charging poles.<sup>1840</sup> The battery swap mode, conducive to extending the life of batteries, will help enhance safety and lower costs for NEV buyers.<sup>1841</sup>

On 10 October 2020, China's State Grid pledged to "further boost the construction of the country's power grids to empower the formation of a new development pattern."<sup>1842</sup> China expects to exceed CNY6 trillion (USD885 billion) investment in power grids and related industries between 2012 and 2025, focusing on ultra-high voltage power transmission, electric vehicle charger and new digital infrastructure.<sup>1843</sup>

China has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration. China's actions have fallen in line with four principles through infrastructure projects that are strengthening infrastructure governance, encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, and integrating environmental considerations.

Thus, China has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ishman Absan*

#### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

France is currently working on an Urban Cable Car system in Ajaccio, Corsica. The goal is to connect the district of St. Joseph with the eastern entrance of Ajaccio. The project will include four stations, and two of them will be connected to the bus, railway or maritime shuttle. The cable cars offer a low emission rate and a high carrying capacity.<sup>1844</sup>

On 9 July 2019, Transport Minister Elisabeth Borne announced that France would introduce an "eco-tax" on all flights from French airports.<sup>1845</sup> The money raised by the tax is intended to be invested in more environmentally friendly transport services, such as trains.<sup>1846</sup> The scheme on

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<sup>1839</sup> China to further promote NEV battery swapping (Beijing) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content\\_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html)

<sup>1840</sup> China to further promote NEV battery swapping (Beijing) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content\\_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html)

<sup>1841</sup> China to further promote NEV battery swapping (Beijing) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content\\_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/24/content_WS5f1a187cc6d029c1c26368e2.html)

<sup>1842</sup> China to further propel power grid development, the State Council (Beijing) 10 October 2020. Access Date: 16

November 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202010/10/content\\_WS5f81b648c6d0f7257693d4ba.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202010/10/content_WS5f81b648c6d0f7257693d4ba.html)

<sup>1843</sup> China to further propel power grid development, the State Council (Beijing) 10 October 2020. Access Date: 16

November 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202010/10/content\\_WS5f81b648c6d0f7257693d4ba.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/202010/10/content_WS5f81b648c6d0f7257693d4ba.html)

<sup>1844</sup> Ajaccio urban cable car, France Mobilities (Paris) February 2019. Date of Access: 28 January 2020.

<https://www.francemobilites.fr/projets/telepherique-urbain-dajaccio>.

<sup>1845</sup> France plans 'eco-tax' for air fares, BBC News (Paris) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48922049>

<sup>1846</sup> France plans 'eco-tax' for air fares, BBC News (Paris) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48922049>

tightening environmental regulation and reducing pollution will be fully implemented starting in 2021.<sup>1847</sup>

On 17 September 2019, France presented its plans for improving the competitiveness of the logistics chain in France, representing 10 per cent of France's GDP and 1.8 million jobs.<sup>1848</sup> France will create the France Logistique, which will streamline infrastructure governance in France to make France a strategic logistic hub.<sup>1849</sup>

On 22 October 2019, France launched its International Strategy for Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture (2019-2024).<sup>1850</sup> This strategy will focus on strengthening global governance of food security and nutrition, develop sustainable agricultural and food systems, strengthen action on nutrition, support the structuring of sustainable agrifood chains to promote jobs in rural areas, and enhance food assistance for vulnerable populations.<sup>1851</sup>

On 25 November 2019, France announced the adoption of regulatory framework governing the applications of blockchains to financial services to “promote development of a dynamic, robust blockchain ecosystem in France, combining capacity for innovation, transparency and a high level of security for savers and investors.”<sup>1852</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission approved the Important Project of Common European Interest in the field of batteries, an initiative launched by France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.<sup>1853</sup> This project will create more jobs and strengthens the economic and technological independence of European countries through industrial development and green growth.<sup>1854</sup>

From 16-17 July 2020, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian visited Iraq and met with President Barham Saleh and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, as well as Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Hussein.<sup>1855</sup> France committed to providing nearly EUR2 million to Iraq to assist in their fight against COVID-19, which includes an immediate delivery of medical equipment

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<sup>1847</sup> France plans 'eco-tax' for air fares, BBC News (Paris) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 16 November 2020.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-48922049>

<sup>1848</sup> France's ambition for logistics, Government of France (Paris) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>1849</sup> France's ambition for logistics, Government of France (Paris) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>1850</sup> France's ambition for logistics, Government of France (Paris) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020.

<https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-s-ambition-for-logistics>

<sup>1851</sup> Food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture - France's strategy (22 Oct. 19), France Diplomacy (Paris) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/news/2019/article/food-security-nutrition-and-sustainable-agriculture-france-s-strategy-22-oct-19>

<sup>1852</sup> France adopts a regulatory framework for blockchains, Government of France (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-adopts-a-regulatory-framework-for-blockchains>

<sup>1853</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

<sup>1854</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

<sup>1855</sup> Iraq - Joint Communiqué by the French and Iraqi Foreign Ministries (16 Jul. 2020), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iraq/news/article/iraq-joint-communique-by-the-french-and-iraqi-foreign-ministries-16-jul-2020>

to assist Iraq in building resilience against the disaster.<sup>1856</sup> Furthermore, France has already committed EUR20 million to Iraq in 2020 to support infrastructure projects, which are complemented by a EUR1 billion finance facility France has made available to Iraq.<sup>1857</sup>

On 14 January 2020, new restrictions were put in place, beginning 1 January 2021, to reduce the carbon impact of buildings, especially during the warmer summer months.<sup>1858</sup> The priorities include monitoring new buildings total life cycle emissions, improve energy performance, guarantee to residents that living accommodations will be adaptable to future climatic conditions (including better resistance to heat waves).<sup>1859</sup>

On 27 January 2020, Elisabeth Borne, Minister for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, Secretary of State for Transport, announced a plan to adapt aeronautical biofuels to make them more sustainable in order to meet the climate challenge and reduce its carbon footprint.<sup>1860</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Minister of Economy and France Bruno Le Maire welcomed the publication of the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, following a lengthy demand by France, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania and Spain for an ambitious industrial strategy.<sup>1861</sup> This strategy will strengthen the competitiveness of industries across Europe and support innovation in the face of technological and climate changes.<sup>1862</sup> Furthermore, the group of countries called for accelerating the decarbonation of the European industry by "adapting the European framework for energy-environment State aid and improving the single market for products and services, for products of the circular economy and for greener public procurement."<sup>1863</sup>

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<sup>1856</sup> Iraq - Joint Communiqué by the French and Iraqi Foreign Ministries (16 Jul. 2020), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iraq/news/article/iraq-joint-communique-by-the-french-and-iraqi-foreign-ministries-16-jul-2020>

<sup>1857</sup> Iraq - Joint Communiqué by the French and Iraqi Foreign Ministries (16 Jul. 2020), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Paris) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iraq/news/article/iraq-joint-communique-by-the-french-and-iraqi-foreign-ministries-16-jul-2020>

<sup>1858</sup> RE2020: A new step towards a more ambitious future environmental regulation of new buildings against climate change, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 14 January 2020. Date of Access: 23 March 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solaire.gouv.fr/re2020-nouvelle-etape-vers-future-reglementation-environnementale-des-batiments-neufs-plus>.

<sup>1859</sup> RE2020: A new step towards a more ambitious future environmental regulation of new buildings against climate change, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 14 January 2020. Date of Access: 23 March 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solaire.gouv.fr/re2020-nouvelle-etape-vers-future-reglementation-environnementale-des-batiments-neufs-plus>.

<sup>1860</sup> Launch of the roadmap for sustainable aeronautical biofuels for French air transport, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 27 January 2020. Date of Access: 28 January 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solaire.gouv.fr/lancement-feuille-route-des-biocarburants-aeronautiques-durables-dans-transport-aerien-francais>.

<sup>1861</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1862</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1863</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

On 17 March 2020, Minister Le Maire announced a EUR45 billion aid package for small businesses and other sectors of the economy that have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1864</sup> The aim is to “safeguard the production capacities of companies.”<sup>1865</sup>

On 18 May 2020, France and Germany proposed a series of concrete actions that will ensure the EU’s sustainable recovery.<sup>1866</sup> The proposal includes research and development of vaccines and treatments, production capacities for medical products, a stimulus fund for the most affected regions and sectors, accelerating the digital transition and the European Green Deal, diversifying value chains and encouraging investments in the EU, and a European minimum wage, among other measures.<sup>1867</sup>

On 17 June 2020, France announced the launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1868</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1869</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1870</sup>

On 22 July 2020, Prime Minister Jean Castex announced the adoption of the EUR750 billion recovery plan for Europe, stating, “initiated by France and Germany, the historic recovery plan adopted in Brussels is a powerful, sustainable response to the crisis.”<sup>1871</sup> The recovery plan will invest in green transition, youth, modernization and protecting jobs.<sup>1872</sup>

On 12 August 2020, France launched a EUR100 million call for projects to promote industrial autonomy.<sup>1873</sup> The goal “is to reduce dependence on non-European suppliers while developing sectors for the future ensuring creation of value in France and Europe” and supports location or

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<sup>1864</sup> France injects billions into stimulus plan amid coronavirus chaos, Politico (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-injects-billions-into-stimulus-plan-amid-coronavirus-chaos-bruno-le-maire-economic-catastrophe/>

<sup>1865</sup> France injects billions into stimulus plan amid coronavirus chaos, Politico (Paris) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-injects-billions-into-stimulus-plan-amid-coronavirus-chaos-bruno-le-maire-economic-catastrophe/>

<sup>1866</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

<sup>1867</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

<sup>1868</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1869</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1870</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1871</sup> Adoption of the Recovery Plan for Europe: a major step for the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/adoption-of-the-recovery-plan-for-europe-a-major-step-for-the-european-union>

<sup>1872</sup> Adoption of the Recovery Plan for Europe: a major step for the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/adoption-of-the-recovery-plan-for-europe-a-major-step-for-the-european-union>

<sup>1873</sup> Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>

relation of industries to France.<sup>1874</sup> The sectors that are prioritized are health, agrifood, electronics, and sectors supplying essential industrial inputs.<sup>1875</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Prime Minister Castex outlined a EUR100 billion recovery plan over two years to combat the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy.<sup>1876</sup> This plan consists of three pillars: “greening the economy (EUR30 billion), promoting economic sovereignty and France’s competitiveness (EUR34 billion) and funding “solidarity and skills” through social expenses (EUR36 billion).”<sup>1877</sup> France aims to become carbon neutral by 2025, wants to modernize the economy, and launch new industrial branches in biotech, renewables, quantum calculus and waste management.<sup>1878</sup> The industrial plan includes a EUR20 billion cut on production tax.<sup>1879</sup>

France has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration, taking action in line with integrating environmental considerations, maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, and strengthening infrastructure governance.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Abby Lessard*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 5 June 2019, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure launched an EUR11 million financial assistance programme for environmentally-friendly on-board and mobile shore-side port electricity supply systems, serving seafaring ships and inland watercraft.<sup>1880</sup> This initiative, which includes implementation collaboration with the Federal States, seeks to bring about a broad transition to shore-side electricity at all German ports, providing cleaner air and increasing the attractiveness of marine transport.<sup>1881</sup>

On 4 July 2019, Federal Minister Andreas Scheuer presented the eight-point “Low water on the Rhine” action plan to enhance the functionality of the Rhine as a crucial transport waterway. The

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<sup>1874</sup> Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>

<sup>1875</sup> Call for projects on creation of value in France and Europe, Government of France (Paris) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/call-for-projects-on-creation-of-value-in-france-and-europe>

<sup>1876</sup> French government lays out fresh €100B stimulus package, Politico (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-coronavirus-100-billion-stimulus-package/>

<sup>1877</sup> French government lays out fresh €100B stimulus package, Politico (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-coronavirus-100-billion-stimulus-package/>

<sup>1878</sup> French government lays out fresh €100B stimulus package, Politico (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-coronavirus-100-billion-stimulus-package/>

<sup>1879</sup> French government lays out fresh €100B stimulus package, Politico (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/france-coronavirus-100-billion-stimulus-package/>

<sup>1880</sup> The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure is funding the on-board and mobile shore-side supply of electricity at seaports and inland ports, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/047-scheuer-bordstrom.html>.

<sup>1881</sup> The Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure is funding the on-board and mobile shore-side supply of electricity at seaports and inland ports, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 5 June 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/047-scheuer-bordstrom.html>.

plan outlines eight measures, including developing vessels suitable for low-water conditions, fast-tracking infrastructure measures, and fostering societal dialogue. The plan seeks to address challenges posed by climate change and bolster the Rhine as an environmentally sustainable transport route.<sup>1882</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure extended the IHATEC funding program for new port technologies until 2025, providing EUR11 million per year, and announced additional funding for seafaring liquefied natural gas propulsion mechanisms, offering up to EUR7 million per scheme. The investments in clean ships and future ports aim to secure Germany's 36,000 shipping-related jobs and reduce the environmental impacts of trade.<sup>1883</sup>

On 22 October 2019, Federal Minister Andreas Scheuer announced EUR26 million in funding for three research and development initiatives under the 5G Innovation Programme. The three projects affect the areas of healthcare, researching 5G's potential applications in rural and home healthcare, manufacturing, transferring 5G to innovative production technologies, and mobility, testing 5G applications in industry and mobility solutions. Together these 5G Innovation Programme schemes seek to maximize the utility of 5G technology to transform operations and lives.<sup>1884</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the Federal Government broke ground on its EUR118-million investment upgrading the Nürnberg-Ost interchange at the A6 and A9 federal motorways. The expansion of ramps and addition of an overfly will reduce congestion for the 82,000 vehicles per day traversing it, up to 30 per cent of which are toll-paying heavy goods vehicles. The motorway improvement was identified as an economically productive measure with a benefit-cost ratio greater than 10:1.<sup>1885</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission approved the Important Project of Common European Interest in the field of batteries, an initiative launched by France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.<sup>1886</sup> This project will create more jobs and strengthens the economic and technological independence of European countries through industrial development and green growth.<sup>1887</sup>

On 20 December 2019, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure initiated the establishment of a new National Coordination Centre for Charging Infrastructure under the Charging Infrastructure Masterplan. The Centre is tasked with facilitating the swift and coordinated rollout of charging facilities nationwide, with an initial target of 1,000 high-power charging stations.

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<sup>1882</sup> Scheuer: H2O, not CO2 — We are future-proofing the transport of goods on the Rhine, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 4 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/053-scheuer-action-plan-transport-rhine.html>.

<sup>1883</sup> 11 million euros for IHATEC in the period until 2025 / 2nd call for applications for funding for LNG propulsion systems for sea-going ships, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/066-technology-update-clean-ships-future.html>.

<sup>1884</sup> Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure provides funding of 26 million euros to three 5G research projects, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/080-scheuer-funding-5g-research.html>.

<sup>1885</sup> Ground-breaking ceremony for the upgrading of the Nürnberg-Ost interchange, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/096-scheuer-a6-a9-upgrading-nuernber-ost.html>.

<sup>1886</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

<sup>1887</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

This effort to make electric charging widely accessible intends to increase the prevalence of electric mobility and standardize provision and pricing, promoting a cleaner travel footprint.<sup>1888</sup>

On 31 January 2020, the Federal Government, in cooperation with Deutsche Bahn, committed EUR11 billion under the Federal Government's 2030 Climate Change Programme to reduce the climate footprint of railway transport.<sup>1889</sup> The funds will be invested entirely in infrastructure projects, specifically relieving network congestion, implementing digital signaling and other railway technologies, improving station safety and accessibility and increasing railway capacity and quality.<sup>1890</sup> The investment will contribute to a more functional, robust and climate-friendly railway network, complementing the Federal Government's overall plan for environmentally friendly mobility.<sup>1891</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure provided a total of EUR8.3 million to seven universities to fund endowed chairs on cycling within the 2020 National Cycling Plan.<sup>1892</sup> The Federal Government's support of the endowed chairs will promote cycling in research and teaching, and support infrastructure planning, mobility management and cycling-conscious policy, providing cyclical benefits to encourage cycling and empower cyclists.<sup>1893</sup> In addition to cycling research and training, the chairs will examine new technologies and envision future mobility through interdisciplinary networks, leveraging synergies within the broader pro-cycling effort.<sup>1894</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier welcomed the publication of the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, following a lengthy demand by France, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania and Spain for an ambitious industrial strategy.<sup>1895</sup> This strategy will strengthen the competitiveness of industries across Europe and support innovation in the face of technological and climate changes.<sup>1896</sup> Furthermore, the group of countries called for accelerating the decarbonation of the European industry by "adapting the

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<sup>1888</sup> Charging infrastructure will soon be here, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2019/100-charging-infrastructure-will-soon-be-here.html>.

<sup>1889</sup> Federal Government and DB boost railways with additional 11 billion euros to proactively reduce the climate footprint of transport, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/003-scheuer-strongrail.html>

<sup>1890</sup> Federal Government and DB boost railways with additional 11 billion euros to proactively reduce the climate footprint of transport, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/003-scheuer-strongrail.html>

<sup>1891</sup> Federal Government and DB boost railways with additional 11 billion euros to proactively reduce the climate footprint of transport, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/003-scheuer-strongrail.html>

<sup>1892</sup> First-time funding provided by BMVI for university chairs on cycling, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/005-we-are-gearing-up-to-support-cyclists.html>

<sup>1893</sup> First-time funding provided by BMVI for university chairs on cycling, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/005-we-are-gearing-up-to-support-cyclists.html>

<sup>1894</sup> First-time funding provided by BMVI for university chairs on cycling, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/005-we-are-gearing-up-to-support-cyclists.html>

<sup>1895</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1896</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

European framework for energy-environment State aid and improving the single market for products and services, for products of the circular economy and for greener public procurement.”<sup>1897</sup>

On 18 May 2020, Germany and France proposed a series of concrete actions that will ensure the EU’s sustainable recovery.<sup>1898</sup> The proposal includes research and development of vaccines and treatments, production capacities for medical products, a stimulus fund for the most affected regions and sectors, accelerating the digital transition and the European Green Deal, diversifying value chains and encouraging investments in the EU, and a European minimum wage, among other measures.<sup>1899</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the Federal Government, along with regional authorities and industry partners, agreed to support new investments in mobile communications at the Mobile Communications Summit.<sup>1900</sup> While mobile communications networks have been improved in recent years, with 99 per cent of households having access to LTE reception, white and dead spots remain of inadequate coverage, particularly in rural areas.<sup>1901</sup> The coronavirus pandemic has emphasized the universal importance of mobile communications, with this cooperative commitment set to bring high-capacity digital infrastructure to all Germans and boost the implementation of 5G technology.<sup>1902</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1903</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1904</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1905</sup>

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<sup>1897</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission’s Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1898</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

<sup>1899</sup> France and Germany united for the sustainable recovery of the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-and-germany-united-for-the-sustainable-recovery-of-the-european-union>

<sup>1900</sup> Mobile Communications Summit: Federal Government, federal states, local authorities and industry agree on mobile communications funding, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/023-scheuer-mobile-communications-summit.html>

<sup>1901</sup> Mobile Communications Summit: Federal Government, federal states, local authorities and industry agree on mobile communications funding, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/023-scheuer-mobile-communications-summit.html>

<sup>1902</sup> Mobile Communications Summit: Federal Government, federal states, local authorities and industry agree on mobile communications funding, Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (Berlin) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.bmvi.de/SharedDocs/EN/PressRelease/2020/023-scheuer-mobile-communications-summit.html>

<sup>1903</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1904</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1905</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>



On 22 July 2020, the adoption of the EUR750 billion recovery plan, initiated by Germany and France, for Europe was announced.<sup>1906</sup> The recovery plan will invest in green transition, youth, modernization and protecting jobs.<sup>1907</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment by acting on five of the six principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments, building resilience against natural disasters and other risks, and integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment.

Thus, Germany has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Kassam*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 2 July 2019, Aurangabad is expected to be equipped with smart infrastructure that will allow the Aurangabad municipal government and the police department to centrally manage essential civic and citizen service mechanisms.<sup>1908</sup>

On 5 July 2019, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman, announced the Jal Jeevan Mission, which “will focus on the creation of local infrastructure for water sustainability.” This project is intended to “[ensure] India’s water security and providing access to safe and adequate drinking water for all Indians.”<sup>1909</sup>

On 9 July 2019, the Chennai state government announced an INR540 million investment to improve the infrastructures of 10 colleges in order to help them achieve National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation.<sup>1910</sup>

On 15 August 2019, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi committed to a five-year, INR1 trillion plan to invest in developing infrastructure. The aim of this investment is to spur enough economic growth to help the country achieve their target of an INR5 trillion economy.<sup>1911</sup>

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<sup>1906</sup> Adoption of the Recovery Plan for Europe: a major step for the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/adoption-of-the-recovery-plan-for-europe-a-major-step-for-the-european-union>

<sup>1907</sup> Adoption of the Recovery Plan for Europe: a major step for the European Union, Government of France (Paris) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/adoption-of-the-recovery-plan-for-europe-a-major-step-for-the-european-union>

<sup>1908</sup> Aurangabad’s smart infrastructure to be ready within 10 months, Times of India (Aurangabad) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/aurangabad/aurangabads-smart-infrastructure-to-be-ready-within-10-months/articleshow/70039136.cms>.

<sup>1909</sup> ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’ to focus on local infrastructure for water sustainability: Sitharaman, Times of India (New Delhi) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/jal-jeevan-mission-to-focus-on-local-infrastructure-for-water-sustainability-sitharaman/articleshow/70092102.cms>.

<sup>1910</sup> TN to spend Rs 54 crore to improve infrastructure of 12 state-run colleges, Times of India (Chennai) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/tn-to-spend-rs-54-crore-to-improve-infrastructure-of-10-state-run-colleges/articleshow/70135069.cms>.

On 2 October 2019, the Odisha Government initiates infrastructure projects at Kotia to boost infrastructure in one of the remote corners of the state and would help to check Andhra's "infiltration" into the area. The projects, which are in various stages of completion, are being executed at a cost of INR55 crore.<sup>1912</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Indian government is set to pump INR800–1,000 crore equity into Indian Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd to bolster its lending capacity at a time when it has emerged as a long ranger of sorts to fund highway and other core sector projects.<sup>1913</sup>

On 12 December 2019, District collector Vadarevu Vinay Chand announced that the administration is gearing up to develop infrastructure in over a thousand government schools in the district. The program would be taken up in 1,234 schools that have been identified under the first phase of the Nadu-Nedu program.<sup>1914</sup>

On 31 January 2020, Suez India Private Limited, the private company contracted for creating a drinking water project around the clock announced that they also planned to open a round-the-clock customer care centre that would address grievances related to water-supply of the city and solve their problems instantly as well as minimize illegal activity.<sup>1915</sup>

On 1 February 2020, the Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, announced the Indian government has launched INR103 trillion infrastructure projects in addition to providing about INR1.7 trillion for transport infrastructure and accelerating highway construction.<sup>1916</sup> These are to augment India's infrastructure and create jobs.<sup>1917</sup>

On 8 March, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami, announced he would soon launch schemes worth INR7,888 crore to strengthen the irrigation of the Cauvery delta basin.<sup>1918</sup>

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<sup>1911</sup> PM Modi: Government to invest Rs 100 lakh crore in infra, \$5 trillion economy target achievable, Times of India (New Delhi) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/pm-narendra-modi-says-will-invest-rs-100-lakh-crore-in-infrastructure-5-trillion-economy-target-achievable/articleshow/70685941.cms>.

<sup>1912</sup> Odisha Government initiates infrastructure projects at Kotia to keep Andhra Pradesh at bay, Times of India (Koraput) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/govt-initiates-infra-projects-at-kotia-to-keep-ap-at-bay/articleshow/71400013.cms>.

<sup>1913</sup> Government set to infuse Rs 1,000 crore equity in IIFCL, Times of India (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/government-set-to-infuse-rs-1000-crore-equity-in-iifcl/articleshow/72192625.cms>.

<sup>1914</sup> Boost to infrastructure in over 1,000 schools in Visakhapatnam, Times of India (Visakhapatnam) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/boost-to-infra-in-over-1000-schools-in-dist/articleshow/72481225.cms>.

<sup>1915</sup> 24\*7 customer center for water supply planned in Mangaluru, Times of India (Mangaluru) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020 <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/24x7-customer-care-centre-for-water-supply-planned/articleshow/73779797.cms>.

<sup>1916</sup> Budget 2020: Sitharaman unveils new infra road map to lend a cutting edge to flagship NIP scheme, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/budget-2020-sitharaman-unveils-new-infra-road-map-to-lend-a-cutting-edge-to-flagship-nip-scheme/articleshow/73833402.cms>

<sup>1917</sup> Budget 2020: Sitharaman unveils new infra road map to lend a cutting edge to flagship NIP scheme, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/budget-2020-sitharaman-unveils-new-infra-road-map-to-lend-a-cutting-edge-to-flagship-nip-scheme/articleshow/73833402.cms>

<sup>1918</sup> Will launch Rs 7,888 crore schemes to bolster Cauvery irrigation: Tamil Nadu CM, Times of India (Tiruvarur/Nagapattinam) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/will-launch-rs-7888cr-schemes-to-bolster-cauvery-irrigation-cm/articleshow/74532637.cms>

This includes a massive extension, renovation, and modernization of the irrigation system sponsored by Nabard for INR5590 crore.<sup>1919</sup>

On 6 June 2020, the Reserve Bank of India, has created a payments infrastructure development fund with a INR250 crore investment to subsidize setting up of card and digital payment infrastructure in small towns and the North-Eastern region of the country.<sup>1920</sup> The fund will have an initial size of INR500 crore and hopes to ensure economic benefits for the regions.<sup>1921</sup>

On 7 June 2020, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath, launched power infrastructure projects worth INR3135 crore.<sup>1922</sup> This is in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi “Power for all” resolution, and part of continuous effort to provide 24-hour power supply to every household, thereby improving quality of life in the region.<sup>1923</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1924</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1925</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1926</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the Indian government, approved setting up an agri-infrastructure fund with corpus of INR1 lakh crore.<sup>1927</sup> The fund is to provide financial support to agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for infrastructure and logistics.<sup>1928</sup>

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<sup>1919</sup> Will launch Rs 7,888 crore schemes to bolster Cauvery irrigation: Tamil Nadu CM, Times of India (Tiruvarur/Nagapattinam) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/trichy/will-launch-rs-7888cr-schemes-to-bolster-cauvery-irrigation-cm/articleshow/74532637.cms>

<sup>1920</sup> RBI sets up Rs 500 crore to help small towns go digital, Times of India (Mumbai) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/rbi-sets-up-rs-500-crore-to-help-small-towns-go-digital/articleshow/76226667.cms>

<sup>1921</sup> RBI sets up Rs 500 crore to help small towns go digital, Times of India (Mumbai) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/rbi-sets-up-rs-500-crore-to-help-small-towns-go-digital/articleshow/76226667.cms>

<sup>1922</sup> UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches power infrastructure projects worth Rs 3135 crore, Times of India (Lucknow) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/up-cm-yogi-adityanath-launches-power-infrastructure-projects-worth-rs-3135-crore/articleshow/76240773.cms>

<sup>1923</sup> UP CM Yogi Adityanath launches power infrastructure projects worth Rs 3135 crore, Times of India (Lucknow) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/lucknow/up-cm-yogi-adityanath-launches-power-infrastructure-projects-worth-rs-3135-crore/articleshow/76240773.cms>

<sup>1924</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1925</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1926</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1927</sup> Government approves additional Rs 1,691 crore for highway works in J&K, Uttarakhand for 2020-21. The Economic Times (New Delhi) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/government-approves-additional-rs-1691-crore-for-highway-works-in-jk-uttarakhand-for-2020-21/articleshow/76672973.cms>

<sup>1928</sup> Cabinet nod for Rs 1 lakh crore agri-infra fund, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/govt-decided-to-set-up-an-agri-infrastructure-fund/articleshow/76854880.cms>

On 10 July 2020, IRB Infrastructure announced it has secured a INR2193 crore highway project in West Bengal under the Bhartmala Pariyojna.<sup>1929</sup> IRB Chair and Managing Director Virendra D Mhaiskar said the company is committed to bring quality connectivity with the rest of the country, which will result in sustainable growth and growth and development.<sup>1930</sup>

On 25 September 2020, India met with Australia, the US, and Japan for a virtual Quad meeting to discuss efforts to improve the Indo-Pacific region.<sup>1931</sup> One of the topics discussed was “quality infrastructure based upon international best practices, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.”<sup>1932</sup>

On 7 October 2020, India signed a pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI, critical information infrastructure, investment, connectivity, infrastructure, and other critical areas with Japan.<sup>1933</sup> This extended partnership between India and Japan aims to strengthen their relationship in all sectors and work on development projects.<sup>1934</sup>

India has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with four of the principles outlined.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Sophia Bai, Ian Stansbury and Yupeng Huang*

#### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 3 July 2019, National Development Planning Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro released the 2020-2024 National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN).<sup>1935</sup> The RPJMN will focus on building infrastructure, increasing connectivity, and strengthening effectiveness, ensuring that all infrastructure

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<sup>1929</sup> IRB Infrastructure secures Rs 2,193 crore project in West Bengal under Bharatmala, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/construction/irb-infrastructure-secures-rs-2193-crore-project-in-west-bengal-under-bharatmala/articleshow/76897171.cms>

<sup>1930</sup> IRB Infrastructure secures Rs 2,193 crore project in West Bengal under Bharatmala, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/construction/irb-infrastructure-secures-rs-2193-crore-project-in-west-bengal-under-bharatmala/articleshow/76897171.cms>

<sup>1931</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations (“The Quad”), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1932</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations (“The Quad”), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1933</sup> India, Japan finalise pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI and critical information infra, Times of India (New Delhi) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-japan-finalise-pact-for-cooperation-in-5g-tech-ai-and-critical-information-infra/articleshow/78533793.cms>

<sup>1934</sup> India, Japan finalise pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI and critical information infra, Times of India (New Delhi) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-japan-finalise-pact-for-cooperation-in-5g-tech-ai-and-critical-information-infra/articleshow/78533793.cms>

<sup>1935</sup> RPJMN 2020-2024 remains focusing on infrastructure development, PwC (Jakarta) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pwc.com/id/en/media-centre/infrastructure-news/july-2019/rpjmn-2020-2024-remains-focusing.html>

development is sustainable.<sup>1936</sup> This includes around USD430 billion investment in infrastructure over the five years.<sup>1937</sup>

On 14 July 2019, President Joko Widodo outlined his plan for a second term, focusing on quicker infrastructure developing and more investment opportunities to create jobs and growth.<sup>1938</sup> The plan includes “connect[ing] ports and airports across the archipelago to agricultural and tourism centres...improve human resources...developing a skill workforce...open investment opportunities...reform the country’s unwieldy bureaucracy...disband institutions that [are] not useful.”<sup>1939</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Indonesia announced the island of Borneo as the new capital city, being relocated from Jakarta.<sup>1940</sup> This massive infrastructure project that will cost IDR466 trillion is due to Jakarta being at high risk of natural disasters, sitting on a swampy land that is sinking.<sup>1941</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Japan and Indonesia concluded two years of negotiations over a JPY458 billion rail project that would link Jakarta and Surabaya. The project is scheduled to begin in 2020 and will involve the construction of approximately 720 kilometers of new rail which will reduce the need for air travel between the two cities, contributing to a reduction of carbon emissions.<sup>1942</sup>

On 14 October 2019, Indonesia announced the completion of a 13,000-kilometer fibre-optic network, the Palapa Ring, that will provide some of the poorest regions in the east with high-speed internet.<sup>1943</sup> The aim is to strengthen trade, by connecting small and medium enterprises products to national and global networks.<sup>1944</sup>

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<sup>1936</sup> RPJMN 2020-2024 remains focusing on infrastructure development, PwC (Jakarta) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.pwc.com/id/en/media-centre/infrastructure-news/july-2019/rpjm-2020-2024-remains-focusing.html>

<sup>1937</sup> Indonesia plans \$430 bn infra spend by 2024, Infrastructure Investor (Jakarta) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.infrastructureinvestor.com/indonesia-plans-430bn-infra-spend-by-2024/>

<sup>1938</sup> Indonesia president pledges more infrastructure, investment in second term, Reuters (Bogor) 14 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-politics-widodo/indonesia-president-pledges-more-infrastructure-investment-in-second-term-idUSKCN1U90HD>

<sup>1939</sup> Indonesia president pledges more infrastructure, investment in second term, Reuters (Bogor) 14 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-politics-widodo/indonesia-president-pledges-more-infrastructure-investment-in-second-term-idUSKCN1U90HD>

<sup>1940</sup> Indonesia picks Borneo island as site of new capital, BBC News (Jakarta) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-49470258>

<sup>1941</sup> Indonesia picks Borneo island as site of new capital, BBC News (Jakarta) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-49470258>

<sup>1942</sup> Indonesia and Japan reach deal on ¥458 billion Jakarta-Surabaya rail project. Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/24/business/indonesia-japan-reach-deal-%C2%A5458-billion-jakarta-surabaya-rail-project/#.XjX0WGHkg2w>.

<sup>1943</sup> Indonesia completes fiber-optic network to bring internet to remote east, Reuters (Jakarta) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-infrastructure/indonesia-completes-fiber-optic-network-to-bring-internet-to-remote-east-idUKKBN1WTOXC>

<sup>1944</sup> Indonesia completes fiber-optic network to bring internet to remote east, Reuters (Jakarta) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-infrastructure/indonesia-completes-fiber-optic-network-to-bring-internet-to-remote-east-idUKKBN1WTOXC>

On 25 October 2019, Indonesia secured a USD500 million policy-based loan from the Asian Development Bank to fund fiscal and public expenditure management and, among others, infrastructure projects and ensure they are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>1945</sup>

On 13 January 2020, Indonesia secured a USD23 billion investment from the United Arab Emirates for infrastructure projects, consisting of 11 business agreements regarding energy, oil and gas, petrochemical, seaport, telecommunication and research.<sup>1946</sup> This investment will contribute to building Indonesia's USD31 billion new capital city, moving from Jakarta to the island of Borneo, beginning in 2021.<sup>1947</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimoeljono gave a statement on Indonesia's intentions to "intensity manpower-intensive infrastructure projects in different parts of Indonesia to offer employment to members of the low-income community to maintain their purchasing power amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic."<sup>1948</sup> The budget of these seven projects is IDR10 trillion and includes an irrigation system accelerated program, a socio-economic regional infrastructure development program, and reduced, reused and recycled waster management sites.<sup>1949</sup>

In May 2020, Indonesia made significant alternations to the 2009 Mining Law to encourage more investment in Indonesia's downstream mining industry.<sup>1950</sup> The new law, Law no. 3 of 2020 (Mining Law Revision), introduces new licenses and creates more effective mining infrastructure governance.<sup>1951</sup>

On 29 May 2020, Coordinating Economic Affairs Minister Airlangga Hartarto announced 89 additional national strategic projects on top of the existing 223.<sup>1952</sup> The projects development from 2020-2024 aim to employ around 4 million workers every year, totaling 19-20 million workers over five years.<sup>1953</sup> The new projects comprise of 15 road and bridge projects, 13 dams and irrigation systems, 13 border infrastructure projects, 12 energy projects, six railway projects, six clean water projects, five airports, five seaports, five industrial zones, three technology projects, three smelters,

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<sup>1945</sup> ADB's \$500 Million Loan to Improve Public Expenditure Management in Indonesia, Asian Development Bank (Jakarta) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.adb.org/news/adbs-500-million-loan-improve-public-expenditure-management-indonesia>

<sup>1946</sup> UAE commits \$23bn to Indonesia infrastructure projects, Financial Times (Dubai) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/885cf174-35d9-11ea-a6d3-9a26f8c3cba4>

<sup>1947</sup> UAE commits \$23bn to Indonesia infrastructure projects, Financial Times (Dubai) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/885cf174-35d9-11ea-a6d3-9a26f8c3cba4>

<sup>1948</sup> Indonesian Govt to intensify labor-intensive infrastructure projects, Antara News (Jakarta) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/145646/indonesian-govt-to-intensify-labor-intensive-infrastructure-projects>

<sup>1949</sup> Indonesian Govt to intensify labor-intensive infrastructure projects, Antara News (Jakarta) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/145646/indonesian-govt-to-intensify-labor-intensive-infrastructure-projects>

<sup>1950</sup> Indonesia Amends Mining Law to Encourage More Downstream Investment, ASEAN Briefing (Hong Kong) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-amends-mining-law-encourage-downstream-investment/>

<sup>1951</sup> Indonesia Amends Mining Law to Encourage More Downstream Investment, ASEAN Briefing (Hong Kong) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-amends-mining-law-encourage-downstream-investment/>

<sup>1952</sup> Indonesia to develop 89 new 'strategic' projects in 2020-2024, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/03/indonesia-to-develop-89-new-strategic-projects-in-2020-2024.html>

<sup>1953</sup> Indonesia to develop 89 new 'strategic' projects in 2020-2024, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/03/indonesia-to-develop-89-new-strategic-projects-in-2020-2024.html>

one seawall, one waste management project, and one land procurement project.<sup>1954</sup> The current 223 national strategic projects are worth around IDR4.2 quadrillion, with 144 projects aimed to be completed by 2020, and the 89 new projects are worth around IDR1.422 quadrillion.<sup>1955</sup>

On 19 September 2020, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati signed an agreement with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin on increasing cooperation on infrastructure development.<sup>1956</sup> Under the Cooperation Framework to Strengthen Infrastructure Finance and Market Building, Indonesia and the U.S. will address regulatory, market, and legal barriers to increase infrastructure development.<sup>1957</sup>

On 29 September 2020, Indonesia's parliament approved President Widodo's USD185 billion budget for 2021.<sup>1958</sup> To increase growth and productivity, the budget includes IDR413.8 trillion (almost USD30 billion) for infrastructure and projects neglected due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>1959</sup> The infrastructure budget is a nearly 50 per cent annual increase.<sup>1960</sup>

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration, by taking action in line with five out of six principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, integrating environmental considerations, integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment, building resilience against natural disasters and other risks and strengthening infrastructure governance.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Abby Lessard*

#### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 21 November 2019, the Italian Ministry of Infrastructure and Transports established the modalities to bring into force the National Digital Archive of Public Works, a database to monitor

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<sup>1954</sup> Indonesia to develop 89 new 'strategic' projects in 2020-2024, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/03/indonesia-to-develop-89-new-strategic-projects-in-2020-2024.html>

<sup>1955</sup> Indonesia to develop 89 new 'strategic' projects in 2020-2024, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/06/03/indonesia-to-develop-89-new-strategic-projects-in-2020-2024.html>

<sup>1956</sup> US, Indonesia sign deal to cooperate on infrastructure financing, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/09/19/us-indonesia-sign-deal-to-cooperate-on-infrastructure-financing.html>

<sup>1957</sup> US, Indonesia sign deal to cooperate on infrastructure financing, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/09/19/us-indonesia-sign-deal-to-cooperate-on-infrastructure-financing.html>

<sup>1958</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia parliament passes President Joko Widodo's \$185 bln 2021 budget, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/indonesia-economy-budget/update-1-indonesia-parliament-passes-president-joko-widodos-185-bln-2021-budget-idUKL4N2GQ2RK>

<sup>1959</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia parliament passes President Joko Widodo's \$185 bln 2021 budget, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/indonesia-economy-budget/update-1-indonesia-parliament-passes-president-joko-widodos-185-bln-2021-budget-idUKL4N2GQ2RK>

<sup>1960</sup> UPDATE 1-Indonesia parliament passes President Joko Widodo's \$185 bln 2021 budget, Reuters (Jakarta) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/indonesia-economy-budget/update-1-indonesia-parliament-passes-president-joko-widodos-185-bln-2021-budget-idUKL4N2GQ2RK>

public works across Italy, including economic and financial efficiency, as well as safety.<sup>1961</sup> The database addressed principle three, on raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost.

On 24 July 2019, the Government of Italy committed EUR15.4 billion to close the country's southern infrastructure gap and expedite the installation of European Rail Traffic Management System technologies by 15 years. This investment will greatly enhance the safety, performance, and efficiency of the Italian rail system, with EUR1.7 billion dedicated exclusively to technological modernization. The commitment also included the launch of a program designated to the conservation and efficiency of more than 19,000 bridges, viaducts, underpasses, and other public works.<sup>1962</sup>

On 3 September 2019, Minister of Infrastructure and Transport Danilo Toninelli signed a decree providing EUR7.5 million to finance infrastructure schemes in small municipalities with fewer than 3,500 residents. Funds will be used for road maintenance, public lighting, municipal public structures, and architectural renovation across 1,152 municipalities identified as incompletely urbanized and socially and materially vulnerable.<sup>1963</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission approved the Important Project of Common European Interest in the field of batteries, an initiative launched by France, Germany, Belgium, Finland, Italy, Poland and Sweden.<sup>1964</sup> This project will create more jobs and strengthens the economic and technological independence of European countries through industrial development and green growth.<sup>1965</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport approved EUR5 billion in new infrastructure projects nationwide, the largest share of which is dedicated to urban transport. EUR2 billion will go toward new metro lines, tramways, trolleybuses, and rolling stock for 17 public transport projects in Rome, Milan, Florence, Bologna, Turin, La Spezia, and Bergamo. This investment will meet demands for sustainable mobility, and reduce environmental impacts, accidents, and energy consumption.<sup>1966</sup>

On 8 January 2020, the Government of Italy signed an inter-ministerial decree allocating EUR2.2 billion to the Italian regions for the procurement of eco-friendly public transport buses and other infrastructure under the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Mobility. This initiative aims to renew

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<sup>1961</sup> AINOP, entra in vigore il decreto attuativo, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 30 September 2020. <http://www.mit.gov.it/documentazione/ainop-entra-vigore-il-decreto-attuativo>.

<sup>1962</sup> Dal Cipe via libera a 15,4mld in più per opere e sicurezza ferroviaria, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/rfi-sicurezza-ferrovie-trasporto-ferroviario/dal-cipe-libera-154mld-piu-per>.

<sup>1963</sup> Piccoli comuni, Toninelli firma dm per finanziamento da 7,5 mln, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://www.mit.gov.it/index.php/comunicazione/news/sbloccacantieri-cantieri-opere-pubbliche-manutenzione-strade-barriere-0>.

<sup>1964</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

<sup>1965</sup> European Commission approves European battery project, coordinated by France, Government of France (Paris) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/european-commission-approves-european-battery-project-coordinated-by-france>

<sup>1966</sup> Via libera dalla Conferenza Unificata a progetti per oltre 5 miliardi, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://www.mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/libera-dalla-conferenza-unificata-progetti-per-oltre-5-miliardi>.



bus fleets with younger, less polluting vehicles to promote improved air quality and utilize efficient technologies.<sup>1967</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Minister of Economic Development Stefano Patuanelli welcomed the publication of the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, following a lengthy demand by France, Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania and Spain for an ambitious industrial strategy.<sup>1968</sup> This strategy will strengthen the competitiveness of industries across Europe and support innovation in the face of technological and climate changes.<sup>1969</sup> Furthermore, the group of countries called for accelerating the decarbonation of the European industry by "adapting the European framework for energy-environment State aid and improving the single market for products and services, for products of the circular economy and for greener public procurement."<sup>1970</sup>

On 16 May 2020, the Ministry of the Environment, alongside the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport announced a EUR500 mobility voucher, available to adults over 18 in capital cities and municipalities of 50,000 or more inhabitants to purchase bicycles and electric micro-mobility vehicles, or to use mobility sharing services.<sup>1971</sup> This initiative will incentivize the use of sustainable urban transport in light of restrictions on public transport necessitated by COVID-19 health and safety measures, fulfilling both immediate economic and wider environmental requirements.<sup>1972</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Government of Italy approved a total of EUR380 million for the procurement of new local and regional transit buses.<sup>1973</sup> The funds will be disbursed to the regions until 2033, which will select their own preferred vehicles in conformance with technological, accessibility and environmental standards.<sup>1974</sup> This investment will support the renewal of public transport infrastructure, particularly that negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as support the retrofitting of protective barriers and other safety provisions against COVID-19.<sup>1975</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India,

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<sup>1967</sup> Tpl, alle Regioni 2,2 miliardi per l'acquisto di bus ecologici, Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti (Rome) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://www.mit.gov.it/index.php/comunicazione/news/tpl-risorse-autobus-mobilita-mobilita-sostenibile/tpl-alle-regioni-22-miliardi>.

<sup>1968</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1969</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1970</sup> Joint statement welcoming the European Commission's Industrial Strategy, Government of France (Paris) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/joint-statement-welcoming-the-european-commission-s-industrial-strategy>

<sup>1971</sup> Sustainability: up to 500 euros for good mobility, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/sostenibilita-fino-500-euro-per-buono-mobilita>

<sup>1972</sup> Sustainability: up to 500 euros for good mobility, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/sostenibilita-fino-500-euro-per-buono-mobilita>

<sup>1973</sup> Tpl: 380 million euros to the Regions for the purchase of new buses, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/tpl-autobus/mit-380-milioni-di-euro-alle-regioni-per-acquisto-nuovi-bus>

<sup>1974</sup> Tpl: 380 million euros to the Regions for the purchase of new buses, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/tpl-autobus/mit-380-milioni-di-euro-alle-regioni-per-acquisto-nuovi-bus>

<sup>1975</sup> Tpl: 380 million euros to the Regions for the purchase of new buses, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/tpl-autobus/mit-380-milioni-di-euro-alle-regioni-per-acquisto-nuovi-bus>

Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1976</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1977</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1978</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport allocated EUR137.2 million for urban cycling routes, cycling stations and cycling safety projects.<sup>1979</sup> The new funding, to be distributed in 2020 and 2021, complements existing bicycle purchase incentives and measures already undertaken to ensure cycling safety.<sup>1980</sup> The funds will be disbursed by regions and municipalities with approved Urban Plans for Sustainable Mobility, incentivizing local investment in the Ministry's General Plan for Cycling Mobility and commitment to environmentally conscious, low-carbon transport.<sup>1981</sup>

Italy has partially complied with its commitment by acting on three of the six principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments and integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Kassam*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 28 August 2019, the seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yokohama to promote infrastructure investment in Africa and reiterate support for current Japanese companies working to extend their impact in Africa. A focus was put on building infrastructure to enhance connectivity and building societies that are disaster resilient, primarily in the Nacala Corridor, the East Africa Northern Corridor and the West Africa Growth Ring.<sup>1982</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Japan and Indonesia concluded two years of negotiations over a JPY458 billion real project that would link Jakarta and Surabaya. The project is scheduled to begin in 2020

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<sup>1976</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1977</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1978</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1979</sup> Cyclo-mobility, 137.2 million euro for urban cycling routes and securing city cycling, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/ciclomobilita-1372-mln-euro-per-le-ciclovie-urbane-e-messa-sicurezza>

<sup>1980</sup> Cyclo-mobility, 137.2 million euro for urban cycling routes and securing city cycling, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/ciclomobilita-1372-mln-euro-per-le-ciclovie-urbane-e-messa-sicurezza>

<sup>1981</sup> Cyclo-mobility, 137.2 million euro for urban cycling routes and securing city cycling, Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (Rome) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://mit.gov.it/comunicazione/news/ciclomobilita-1372-mln-euro-per-le-ciclovie-urbane-e-messa-sicurezza>

<sup>1982</sup> The Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000521256.pdf>.

and will involve the construction of approximately 720 kilometre of new rail which will reduce the need for air travel between the two cities, contributing to a reduction of carbon emissions.<sup>1983</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation agreed to loan USD194 million to Umm Al Houl Power of Qatar to expand Qatar's Facility D Natural Gas-Fired Power Generation and Desalination Project. This loan will help expand the facilities desalination process by 280,000 cubic metres per day to help satisfy the increasing demand for water in Qatar as the economy strengthens while simultaneously increasing the international competitiveness of Japanese energy companies.<sup>1984</sup>

On 20 December 2019, the Japan Bank for International Cooperation signed a EUR44 million loan for the Moroccan Taza onshore wind power generation project. The Moroccan company Parc Eolien de Taza SA will own and maintain the new generation plant capable of operating at 87.21MW. This infrastructure project will help Morocco reach its renewable energy target of 52 per cent by 2030, aligns with Japan's Export Strategy for Infrastructure System and Japan's Paris Agreement promise of leading global decarbonization efforts.<sup>1985</sup>

From 17-18 February 2020, the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation met to draft future sustainable environmental infrastructure projects.<sup>1986</sup> These pilot projects will help introduce Japanese infrastructure to eradicate ocean plastic litter by 2050 and introduce Japanese financial assistance to help increase investment in quality infrastructure across the Asia-Pacific sphere.<sup>1987</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>1988</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>1989</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>1990</sup>

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<sup>1983</sup> Indonesia and Japan reach deal on ¥458 billion Jakarta-Surabaya rail project, Japan Times (Tokyo) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/24/business/indonesia-japan-reach-deal-%C2%A5458-billion-jakarta-surabaya-rail-project/#.XjX0WGhKg2w>.

<sup>1984</sup> Project Finance for Facility D Natural Gas-Fired Power Generation and Desalination Project (Expansion Project) in Qatar, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 19 December 2019. Access Date: February 1, 2020. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/1119-012769.html>.

<sup>1985</sup> Project Financing for Taza Onshore Wind Power Generation Project in Morocco, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 23 December 2019. Access Date: February 1, 2020. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/press/press-2019/1223-012972.html#link2>.

<sup>1986</sup> BIC Held Meetings with ADB to Discuss Sustainable Development of Environmental Infrastructure Projects, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/topics/topics-2019/0306-013231.html>.

<sup>1987</sup> BIC Held Meetings with ADB to Discuss Sustainable Development of Environmental Infrastructure Projects, Japan Bank for International Cooperation (Tokyo) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://www.jbic.go.jp/en/information/topics/topics-2019/0306-013231.html>.

<sup>1988</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1989</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>1990</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

On 7 August 2020, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) hosted the Fourth Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy.<sup>1991</sup> At the Committee, Kajiyama Hiroshi, Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Tran Tuan Anh, Vietnam's Minister of Industry and Trade, affirmed that they would collaborate on building more resilient energy infrastructure and enhance supply chains while enhancing economic collaboration across the Asia-Pacific geographic region.<sup>1992</sup>

On 25 August 2020, METI Minister Kajiyama Hiroshi, hosted a video conference with Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber, the CEO of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, the United Arab Emirates (UAE).<sup>1993</sup> The two Ministers agreed that Japan and the UAE will work closely on expanding infrastructure in the fields of energy, medicine and advanced technologies, benefitting both countries.<sup>1994</sup>

On 25 September 2020, Japan met with Australia, the US, and India for a virtual Quad meeting to discuss efforts to improve the Indo-Pacific region.<sup>1995</sup> One of the topics discussed was "quality infrastructure based upon international best practices, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment."<sup>1996</sup>

On 7 October 2020, Japan signed a pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI, critical information infrastructure, investment, connectivity, infrastructure, and other critical areas with India.<sup>1997</sup> This extended partnership between Japan and India aims to strengthen their relationship in all sectors and work on development projects.<sup>1998</sup>

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration. Japan has taken actions in line with three principles through initiatives with environmental considerations, strengthening infrastructure governance and building resilience against natural disasters.

Thus, Japan has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ian Hughes*

## **Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

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<sup>1991</sup> METI Holds the Fourth Meeting of Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0807\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0807_002.html)

<sup>1992</sup> METI Holds the Fourth Meeting of Japan-Viet Nam Joint Committee on Cooperation in Industry, Trade and Energy (Tokyo) 7 August 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0807\\_002.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0807_002.html)

<sup>1993</sup> METI Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0826\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0826_001.html)

<sup>1994</sup> METI Minister Kajiyama Holds Meeting with H.E. Dr. Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 1 October 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0826\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/0826_001.html)

<sup>1995</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations ("The Quad"), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1996</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations ("The Quad"), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>1997</sup> India, Japan finalise pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI and critical information infra, Times of India (New Delhi) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-japan-finalise-pact-for-cooperation-in-5g-tech-ai-and-critical-information-infra/articleshow/78533793.cms>

<sup>1998</sup> India, Japan finalise pact for cooperation in 5G tech, AI and critical information infra, Times of India (New Delhi) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-japan-finalise-pact-for-cooperation-in-5g-tech-ai-and-critical-information-infra/articleshow/78533793.cms>

On 4 September 2019, Korean President Moon Jae-in, laid out his vision for closer partnerships between Korea and Myanmar, with a focus on revving up cooperation on infrastructure and culture as well as promoting people-to-people exchanges.<sup>1999</sup>

On 6 November 2019, Korean airport operator Korea Airports Corp. announced it submitted the final proposal for the operation of an airport in Manta, Ecuador. The final proposal encompasses plans for the financial structure and traffic size as well as development plans for the airport reflecting demands from the Ecuadorian government.<sup>2000</sup>

On 19 November 2019, Transport Ministry of Korea announced it will invest KRW4.84 trillion (USD4.2 billion) to expand its main airport to meet rapidly rising travel demand. Once completed, the expanded Incheon airport will be able to manage 106 million passengers a year with two terminals that separately accommodate over 50 million passengers each.<sup>2001</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Korean Manufacturing and Trading company Hanwha Energy announced it has joined hands with Korea Gas Corp. (Kogas) and Korea Southern Power (Kospo) to cooperate in infrastructure development projects for a gas plant and liquefied natural gas terminal in Vietnam. According to the company, the three firms will form a consortium called Korea Consortium for the joint project.<sup>2002</sup>

On 10 January 2020, Vice Finance Minister Koo Yun-cheol announced that Korea will speed up its budget spending in the first quarter as it seeks to revitalize the economy through large-scale investment projects. Among the new infrastructure projects under review are KRW13.5 trillion worth of major roads and railways and 3.5 trillion won worth of environment-related businesses. Koo emphasizes that there would be a focus on social infrastructure and job creation in the first quarter.<sup>2003</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>2004</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>2005</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>2006</sup>

On 14 July 2020, President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday unveiled the road map of a “Korean New Deal” stimulus package that seeks to invest over KRW160 trillion and create 1.9 million jobs over the next

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<sup>1999</sup> Moon presents S. Korea-Myanmar partnership vision at Yangon business forum, Korea Herald (Seoul) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190904000826&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190904000826&ACE_SEARCH=1).

<sup>2000</sup> Korea and US sign an MOU on Joint Infrastructure Development, Government of Korea (Seoul) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4773>.

<sup>2001</sup> Korea Airports Corp. submits final proposal for Manta airport in Ecuador, Korea Herald (Seoul) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191106000762&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191106000762&ACE_SEARCH=1).

<sup>2002</sup> Hanwha Energy taps Vietnam’s energy market, Korea Herald (Seoul) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191219000674&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191219000674&ACE_SEARCH=1).

<sup>2003</sup> S. Korea to speed up budget spending in Q1: vice finance minister, Korea Herald (Seoul) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200110000550&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200110000550&ACE_SEARCH=1).

<sup>2004</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2005</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2006</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

five years.<sup>2007</sup> The New Deal package primarily consists of two pillars — Digital New Deal and Green New Deal — long with projects on the sidelines to reinforce social safety nets, according to Moon.<sup>2008</sup>

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with three of the principles.

Thus, Korea receives an overall score of 0.

*Analyst: Ishmam Absan*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure.

On 11 July 2019, the Secretary of Communications and Transport announced that it would expand the Port of Manzanillo in the Cuyutlan Lagoon to underpin the development of the National Port System, to meet the growing demand for port services. This project pledges to ensure that the Environmental Impact Mitigation Measures are met during the construction process.<sup>2009</sup>

On 13 September 2019, the Foreign Ministry and National Audit Office signed an agreement on the oversight of aid to Mesoamerica and the Caribbean. The agreement will be in effect for two years and will help ensure that there is oversight and audits for public resources that are used by the Infrastructure Fund for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean.<sup>2010</sup>

On 31 October 2019, the Secretaries of Agrarian, Territorial, and Urban Development and Governance signed an agreement to promote sustainable urban development in Mexican cities. The specific area of action the agreement focuses on is establishing collaboration mechanisms to link Federal projects to municipalities while supporting municipal development. The objective of this is to recognize the important role municipal government plays in understanding the needs of its population when it comes to development projects.<sup>2011</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the Secretaries of Agrarian, Territorial and Urban Development announced the National Housing Program and invested MXN2.3 million to the program that will have over 5.4 million actions and benefit 20 million people. The program is aimed to support the most vulnerable individuals and has listed five main infrastructure objectives: 1) guarantee the right of housing to everyone; 2) improve the coordination in the public sector; 3) strengthen the collaboration with the

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<sup>2007</sup> Korea's W160tr 'New Deal' project aims to create 1.9m jobs by 2025. 14 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200714000951&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200714000951&ACE_SEARCH=1)

<sup>2008</sup> Korea's W160tr 'New Deal' project aims to create 1.9m jobs by 2025. 14 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200714000951&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200714000951&ACE_SEARCH=1)

<sup>2009</sup> Ampliaremos el Puerto de Manzanillo en la Laguna de Cuyutlán, Secretary of Communications and Transport (Mexico City) 11 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sct/es/articulos/ampliaremos-el-puerto-de-manzanillo-en-la-laguna-de-cuyutlan?idiom=es>.

<sup>2010</sup> Foreign Ministry and National Audit Office Agree on Oversight for Aid to Mesoamerica and the Caribbean (Mexico Fund), Secretary of Foreign Relations (Mexico City) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/en/articulos/foreign-ministry-and-national-audit-office-agree-on-oversight-for-aid-to-mesoamerica-and-the-caribbean-mexico-fund-217182?idiom=en>.

<sup>2011</sup> Firman convenio Sedatu y Gobernación para impulsar el desarrollo urbano sostenible y ciudades ordenadas y sustentables, Secretary of Agrarian, Territorial, and Urban Development (Mexico City) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/prensa/firman-convenio-sedatu-y-gobernacion-para-impulsar-el-desarrollo-urbano-sostenible-y-ciudades-ordenadas-y-sustentables?idiom=es>.

social and private sector; 4) ensure transparency and accountability in the sector; and 5) recover the rectory of the state over the territory.<sup>2012</sup>

On 17 December 2019, the Government of Mexico announced, in coordination with state administrations, the building of 2,000 homes in the area where farmers in the Sowing Life program live in the first four months of 2020.<sup>2013</sup> The aim of Sowing Life is to increase social housing for rural communities so that people feel part of a community, as well to encourage the development of fixed jobs that allow individuals to develop an identity and connection to where they live.<sup>2014</sup>

On 1 March 2020, the Secretary of Agrarian, Territory, and Urban Development initiated MXN400 million to housing and improving public space in Tabasco. The project includes the construction of markets, plazas, cultural and sporting centres, as well as schools and parks. It aims to provide a more sociable environment for the residents of the region.<sup>2015</sup>

On 30 May 2020, the Secretariat of Agricultural, Territorial, and Urban Development announced the expansion of an Urban Improvement Program for the state of Guerrero. Over MXN84.9 million will be invested in the program which aims to carry out rescue actions for public spaces; as well as the expansion and improvement of housing in the municipalities of Acapulco, Chilpancingo and Iqual.<sup>2016</sup> The Secretary of Agricultural, Territorial, and Urban Development has stated that this program serves to improve “the quality of life of the inhabitants of the mostly marginalized colonies and without access to basic equipment and services, while incentivizing economic revival with the construction of public works.”<sup>2017</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>2018</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>2019</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of

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<sup>2012</sup> SEDATU presenta Programa Nacional de Vivienda, Inmobiliare (Mexico City) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://inmobiliare.com/sedatu-presenta-programa-nacional-de-vivienda/>.

<sup>2013</sup> SEDATU presenta Programa Nacional de Vivienda, Inmobiliare (Mexico City) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://inmobiliare.com/sedatu-presenta-programa-nacional-de-vivienda/>.

<sup>2014</sup> Ampliarán Sedatu y Bienestar Programa de Construcción de Vivienda Social para campesinos de Sembrando Vida, Secretary of Agrarian, Territory, and Urban Development (Mexico City) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/prensa/ampliaran-sedatu-y-bienestar-programa-de-construccion-de-vivienda-social-para-campesinos-de-sembrando-vida?idiom=es>.

<sup>2015</sup> Invertirá Sedatu mil millones de pesos en mejoras de vivienda y espacio público para Tabasco, Ministry of Agrarian, Territory, and Urban (Mexico City) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/galerias/invertira-sedatu-mil-millones-de-pesos-en-mejoras-de-vivienda-y-espacio-publico-para-tabasco>.

<sup>2016</sup> Anuncia Sedatu ampliación del Programa de Mejoramiento Urbano para Guerrero, Ministry of Agricultural, Territorial, and Urban Development (Mexico City) 19 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/prensa/anuncia-sedatu-ampliacion-del-programa-de-mejoramiento-urbano-para-guerrero-244074?idiom=es>

<sup>2017</sup> Anuncia Sedatu ampliación del Programa de Mejoramiento Urbano para Guerrero, Ministry of Agricultural, Territorial, and Urban Development (Mexico City) 19 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sedatu/prensa/anuncia-sedatu-ampliacion-del-programa-de-mejoramiento-urbano-para-guerrero-244074?idiom=es>

<sup>2018</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2019</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>2020</sup>

On 5 October 2020, Mexico announced a program of 39 joint public-private infrastructure projects worth nearly USD14 billion.<sup>2021</sup> The projects include oil refinery plants, highways, a passenger train link between Mexico City and Queretaro and dock and port facilities.<sup>2022</sup> They are worth almost a quarter of Mexico's GDP and aim to begin by 2022, creating as many as 185,000 jobs.<sup>2023</sup>

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by acting in four of the six principles outlined, such as encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations into projects, integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investment and strengthening infrastructure governance.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Isabel Davis*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 15 August 2019, Resolution No. 1815 was drafted in regard to implementing the federal information infrastructure project. The new project is designed to provide all citizens with universal communication access that is of high quality and affordable. Internet and mobile connection access points will be installed within settlements with populations from 100 to 500 people.<sup>2024</sup>

On 28 August 2019, Resolution No. 1911-r stated a concept for transferring state authority information systems and local governments into a single state cloud platform. This is meant to increase the efficiency of the information technology systems and communication infrastructure.<sup>2025</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the Presidium approved the "Digital Transport and Logistics" project in the Ministry of Transport. It involves transforming existing industries: air, water, rail, road transport into

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<sup>2020</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2021</sup> Mexico announces \$14 billion in infrastructure projects, ABC News (Mexico City) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-announces-14-billion-infrastructure-projects-73433345>

<sup>2022</sup> Mexico announces \$14 billion in infrastructure projects, ABC News (Mexico City) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-announces-14-billion-infrastructure-projects-73433345>

<sup>2023</sup> Mexico announces \$14 billion in infrastructure projects, ABC News (Mexico City) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexico-announces-14-billion-infrastructure-projects-73433345>

<sup>2024</sup> The government introduced to the State Duma a bill on optimizing the system of universal communications services, Russian Government (Moscow) 16 August 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://government.ru/activities/selection/301/37679/>.

<sup>2025</sup> The concept of creating a state unified cloud platform was approved, Russian Government (Moscow) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://government.ru/docs/37804/>.



one that is integrated with open data and digital platforms. The goal is to increase economic efficiency and growth, competitiveness, the quality of life of citizens.<sup>2026</sup>

On 7 June 2020, the Presidium approved the transfer of RUB6.8 billion from the federal budget to build 166 km of highways in Crimea with the goal is to develop the road network.<sup>2027</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the Presidium approved the Strategy for the Development of the Manufacturing Industry.<sup>2028</sup> The project will develop industries including aviation, shipbuilding, electronics, medical, automotive, transport and agricultural engineering.<sup>2029</sup> It is expected that by 2024, there will be a 50 per cent increase in the number of companies carrying out innovations, increase in labor productivity and industrial exports.<sup>2030</sup>

On 20 June 2020, a meeting of the Presidium of the Government Commission on the Social and Economic Development of the Far East discussed the RUB98.6 billion sent to the regions of the Far East.<sup>2031</sup> The funds have built 309 facilities including schools, hospitals and cultural centres. The goal is to support social development plans for the population, and create 10,600,000 jobs.<sup>2032</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the Presidium approved the rules for financing programs for socio-economic development in regions such as the republics of Altai, Karelia and Tyva. The goal is to revive the economy, boost employment and improve the standard of living.<sup>2033</sup>

On 10 July 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin discussed the implementation of the Europe-Western China transport corridor project.<sup>2034</sup> The final stage is the Central Ring Road in Moscow and the construction of the Moscow-Nizhny Novgorod-Kazan highway.<sup>2035</sup> The joint project involves Russia, Kazakhstan, and China and spans over 700 kilometres.<sup>2036</sup> The goal is to support key sectors of the economy in recovery from COVID-19, increase in development in the regions of Moscow, Samara-Togliatti, Nizhny Novgorod and Kazan, thus increasing domestic regional product to more

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<sup>2026</sup> Maxim Akimov held a meeting of the Presidium of the Government Commission on Digital Development, Russian Government (Moscow) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <http://government.ru/news/38653/>.

<sup>2027</sup> The government approved the rules for the provision of funds for the development of roads in Crimea, Russia Government (Moscow) 7 June 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39837/>

<sup>2028</sup> Mikhail Mishutin approved the Strategy for the development of the manufacturing industry, Russia Government (Moscow) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39844/>

<sup>2029</sup> Mikhail Mishutin approved the Strategy for the development of the manufacturing industry, Russia Government (Moscow) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39844/>

<sup>2030</sup> Mikhail Mishutin approved the Strategy for the development of the manufacturing industry, Russia Government (Moscow) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39844/>

<sup>2031</sup> Yuri Trutnev held a meeting of the Presidium of the Government Commission on the Socio-Economic Development of the Far East, Russia Government (Moscow) 20 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39910/>

<sup>2032</sup> Yuri Trutnev held a meeting of the Presidium of the Government Commission on the Socio-Economic Development of the Far East, Russia Government (Moscow) 20 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39910/>

<sup>2033</sup> The government approved the rules for financing individual regional development programs, Russia Government (Moscow) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39988/>

<sup>2034</sup> About the construction of the road "Europe - Western China", Russia Government (Yelabuga) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40002/>

<sup>2035</sup> About the construction of the road "Europe - Western China", Russia Government (Yelabuga) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40002/>

<sup>2036</sup> About the construction of the road "Europe - Western China", Russia Government (Yelabuga) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40002/>

than RUB500 billion by 2050.<sup>2037</sup> The project will also create more than 30,000 jobs directly during construction, and more than 130,000 in related industries.<sup>2038</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Presidium signed Order No. 1814-r, approving subsidies to eliminate eight unauthorized landfills in Tver, Tula, Lipetsk and Nizhny Novgorod regions. This is a part of the federal project “Clean Country.”<sup>2039</sup> The goal is to improve the standard of living for the people living in the adjacent areas.<sup>2040</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Presidium signed an order to approve RUB4.5 billion to improve the road network in the Republic of Mari El, the Vladimir region, and the Frunzensky bridge in Samara. The money is allocated as a part of the national project “Safe and high-quality roads” and will improve transportation and ensuring projects are completed on time.<sup>2041</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin approved funding for 73 local airports and 15 landing sites in the Far Eastern, Siberian and Northwestern Federal Districts. RUB4.5 billion is allocated to covering the cost of salaries, utilities, runway maintenance and other ground infrastructure.<sup>2042</sup>

On 13 August 2020, the Deputy Prime Minister and the government of Rostov region are preparing a plan to accelerate the construction of the Rostov transport ring. Specialists will calculate the most efficient timing and funding to move the project forward. The transport ring will connect the southern region and allow more development of housing projects.<sup>2043</sup>

Russia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with four of the principles outlined: encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost and integrating social considerations in infrastructure investments.

Thus, Russia has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alice Wang*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 20 October 2019, Chief Executive John Pagano of the Red Sea Development project commented on the importance of reaching key ecological targets for Saudi Arabia’s tourism megaproject. The

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<sup>2037</sup> About the construction of the road “Europe - Western China”, Russia Government (Yelabuga) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40002/>

<sup>2038</sup> About the construction of the road “Europe - Western China”, Russia Government (Yelabuga) 10 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40002/>

<sup>2039</sup> The government has made changes to the distribution of subsidies for the elimination of unauthorized landfills, Russia Government (Moscow) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40062/>

<sup>2040</sup> The government has made changes to the distribution of subsidies for the elimination of unauthorized landfills, Russia Government (Moscow) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40062/>

<sup>2041</sup> The government allocated more than 4.5 billion rubles for the development of the road network in the regions, Russia Government (Moscow) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40427/>

<sup>2042</sup> Mikhail Mishustin signed a decree to support airports in northern and hard-to-reach areas, Russia Government (Moscow) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40382/>

<sup>2043</sup> Marat Khusnullin held a working meeting with the Governor of the Rostov Region Vasily Golubev, Russia Government (Moscow) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <http://government.ru/news/40198/>

project involves 28,000 square kilometres of lagoons, canyons, and archipelagos off the west coast of Saudi Arabia. The region is home to the world's fourth largest coral reef, and Pagano stressed the importance of balancing tourism development and ecological conservation.<sup>2044</sup>

On 12 November 2019, the Royal Commission for Riyadh City held a forum to introduce the Riyadh Four Grand Projects. These projects include the construction of King Salman Park, Sports Boulevard, Green Riyadh, Riyadh Art. These projects have the focus of hosting many environmental, cultural, recreational activities, contributing to the well-being of residents.<sup>2045</sup>

On 22 January 2020, Abdullah Al Swaha, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, affirms Saudi Arabia's commitment to improving the status of women and youth through its Vision 2030 projects.<sup>2046</sup> Started in 2016, Vision 2030 has been at the forefront of Saudi Arabia's development focus to create opportunities for all. With various programs targeting different aspects of Saudi Arabian society, it has committed to developing cultural activities, transforming its healthcare system, improving the urban landscape, enhancing traffic safety, reducing pollution, and providing environmental protection and sustainable development of resources.<sup>2047</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Acting Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs, Dr. Majid Al-Qasabi launched a plant for sorting and recycling construction waste. The plant will be built in Al-Ahsa, and spread on an area of 100,000 square meters, with an estimated capacity of 3,000 tons per day. It will sort waste from buildings under construction, infrastructure projects and road projects, and work on reusing the waste, eliminating the random disposal of construction waste. The move is also in line with Vision 2030 to boost service development in the municipal sector.<sup>2048</sup>

On 19 March 2020, CEO of the NEOM project Nadhmi al-Nasr announced the beginning of construction for the project in the Tabuk region. The project will have more than 1 million people working and residing in the area. It will include towns, ports, research centers, sports and entertainment venues and will serve as a pillar of Vision 2030.<sup>2049</sup>

On 18 May 2020, Qiddiya Investment Company announced that they have signed a five-year agreement with Detecon Al Saudia.<sup>2050</sup> Its purpose is to provide hybrid cloud, connectivity and manpower to support Qiddiya's growth and development projects.<sup>2051</sup>

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<sup>2044</sup> Saudi tourism megaproject aims to turn the Red Sea green, Arab News (Riyadh) 20 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1571436/saudi-arabia>.

<sup>2045</sup> RCRC organizes an international forum to discuss the impact of the "Riyadh Four Grand Projects" on the city's quality of life, Royal Commission for Riyadh City (Riyadh) 12 November 2019. Access Date 31 January 2020. [http://www.ada.gov.sa/ADA\\_E/News\\_En/index.htm?id=007872](http://www.ada.gov.sa/ADA_E/News_En/index.htm?id=007872).

<sup>2046</sup> Saudi Arabia vows to 'leave no one behind' with Vision 2030 reforms, Arabian Business (Davos) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/politics-economics/438316-saudi-arabia-vow-to-leave-no-one-behind-with-vision-2030-reforms>.

<sup>2047</sup> National Transformation Program, Vision 2030 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://vision2030.gov.sa/en/programs/NTP>.

<sup>2048</sup> Al-Ahsa curbs construction waste with 3,000-ton project, Saudi Gazette (Al-Ahsa) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/589775/SAUDI-ARABIA/Al-Ahsa-curbs-constructionwaste-with-3000-ton-project>.

<sup>2049</sup> Saudi Arabia embraces a different future with NEOM, The Arab Weekly (London) 23 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://theArabweekly.com/saudi-arabia-embraces-different-future-neom>.

<sup>2050</sup> Saudi Arabia's Qiddiya signs agreement with DETASAD as IT strategic partner, Arab News (Riyadh) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1676576/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2051</sup> Saudi Arabia's Qiddiya signs agreement with DETASAD as IT strategic partner, Arab News (Riyadh) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1676576/saudi-arabia>

On 1 July 2020, Diriyah Gate Development Authority began the first phase of a SAR75billion project to transform the city of Diriyah.<sup>2052</sup> Its goal is to attract visitors through its entertainment, events, retail, residential areas, museums as well as preserving the At-Turaif UNESCO World Heritage Site.<sup>2053</sup>

On 4 July 2020, the second phase of development and expansion of the AlUla Airport has been completed.<sup>2054</sup> The project will boost the city's tourism sector and provide new opportunities for the local community, hoping to attract two million visitors a year and create 38,000 new jobs.<sup>2055</sup>

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with five of the principles outlined through sustainable economic growth, considerations of the environment, inclusion of minority populations, raising economic efficiency in view of life-cycle cost, and building resilience against natural disasters.

Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alice Wang*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions that in line with two of the principles.

On 12 July 2019, the Department of Water and Sanitation announced that ZAR18 million would be allocated to the JS Moroka Local Municipality to address water shortages in the region. The funding will be used to refurbish existing boreholes and drill new ones to increase the supply of water and counter the regional drought.<sup>2056</sup>

On 4 November 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa established the Investment and Infrastructure Office, and appointed two new Special Envoys on Investment. The office will operate under the Office of the Presidency and will lead the national investment plan and handle allocation of the Infrastructure Fund.<sup>2057</sup>

On 6 November 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the creation of a dedicated investment and infrastructure office in his Presidency. This office “would be responsible for developing the

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<sup>2052</sup> Diriyah Gate Development Authority starts work on major heritage project, Arab News (Jeddah) 01 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1698041/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2053</sup> Diriyah Gate Development Authority starts work on major heritage project, Arab News (Jeddah) 01 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1698041/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2054</sup> Royal Commission for AlUla completes second phase of airport expansion, Arab News (Alula) 04 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1699616/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2055</sup> Royal Commission for AlUla completes second phase of airport expansion, Arab News (Alula) 04 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1699616/saudi-arabia>

<sup>2056</sup> R18m allocated for Mpumalanga water shortages, infrastructurenews (Sandton) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2019/07/12/r18m-allocated-for-mpumalanga-water-shortages/>

<sup>2057</sup> President strengthens Investment Envoys team and establishes Investment and Infrastructure Office, Office of the Presidency (Pretoria) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.thepresidency.gov.za/press-statements/president-strengthens-investment-envoys-team-and-establishes-investment-and>

country's strategy, refining infrastructure for investment mobilisation and establishing an intelligence capability."<sup>2058</sup>

On 9 December 2019, Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu released the national water and sanitation master plan, a plan that aims to ensure water security for all South Africans through government assistance in infrastructure maintenance and funding. In the plan, 100 key steps are laid out for short-term and long-term solutions to stabilizing South Africa's water supply.<sup>2059</sup>

On 3 January 2020, Minister Sisulu announced the allocation of ZAR18 million towards an upgrade plan for the Albany Coast Sea Water Reverse Osmosis Plant. The technology upgrade is set to increase the production of the water treatment plant by approximately 60 per cent, making it more efficient.<sup>2060</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the EThekweni Municipality, announced a multimillion-rand water infrastructure upgrade.<sup>2061</sup> This would bring the long-standing water shortage woes of residents in Thongathi and the city's western areas to an end, thereby improving quality of life in the region.<sup>2062</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Minister Sisulu announced the allocation of ZAR220 million towards addressing the water crisis in the QwaQwa region. The funds will go towards immediate relief in the form of 5000 Jojo Tanks to equip households lacking water tanks, as well as towards refurbishing and drilling new boreholes to increase the water supply to the region.<sup>2063</sup>

On 11 February 2020, President Ramaphosa made a speech to the members of the African Union, stating that South Africa will play an "active role" in promoting the Presidential Infrastructure Championing Initiative. The initiative seeks to promote and fund various infrastructure projects across the African continent, striving for "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa."<sup>2064</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Anton Bredell, announced that the construction of the first of nine new regional waste disposal facilities in the Western Cape has started

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<sup>2058</sup> Investment and infrastructure office to boost SA economy, *infrastructurenews* (Gauteng) 6 November 2019. Access Date: February 21, 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2019/11/06/investment-and-infrastructure-office-to-boost-sa-economy/>.

<sup>2059</sup> Water and sanitation master plan is a 'call to action', *infrastructurenews* (Sandton) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2019/12/09/water-and-sanitation-master-plan-is-a-call-to-action/>.

<sup>2060</sup> R18 million spent on upgrading a sea water reverse osmosis plant, *infrastructurenews* (Sandton) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/01/03/r18-million-spent-on-upgrading-a-sea-water-reverse-osmosis-plant/>.

<sup>2061</sup> EThekweni announces multimillion-rand water infrastructure upgrade, *infrastructurenews* (Gauteng) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/01/22/ethekwini-announces-multimillion-rand-water-infrastructure-upgrade/>

<sup>2062</sup> EThekweni announces multimillion-rand water infrastructure upgrade, *infrastructurenews* (Gauteng) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/01/22/ethekwini-announces-multimillion-rand-water-infrastructure-upgrade/>

<sup>2063</sup> Sisulu intervenes in QwaQwa water crisis, *infrastructurenews* (Sandton) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/01/24/sisulu-intervenes-in-qwaqwa-water-crisis/>.

<sup>2064</sup> Infrastructure to pave the way for Africa's development, *infrastructurenews* (Sandton) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/11/infrastructure-to-pave-the-way-for-africas-development/>.

in Mossel Bay.<sup>2065</sup> The new facility is aimed at stimulating the waste economy, creating jobs and reducing the environmental impacts of waste management in the region.<sup>2066</sup>

On 13 February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the plans for a new smart city in Gauteng that will “be smart and 5G-ready [and] will be a leading benchmark for green infrastructure continental and internationally.”<sup>2067</sup>

On 17 February 2020, Minister Sisulu announced an allocation of ZAR143 million to address water shortages and drought in the Sekhukhune District Municipality. The funds will go towards immediate relief in the form of water tanks, as well as long-term relief in the form of refurbishing and drilling new boreholes to increase water supply to the district.<sup>2068</sup>

On 25 February, the Gauteng provincial government, announced it will in the next five years spend ZAR60 billion on building and maintaining infrastructure.<sup>2069</sup> This would help the provincial government’s Welfare-to-Work Programme to enable 100,000 young women to work.<sup>2070</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs set aside ZAR554 million to create jobs through infrastructure projects.<sup>2071</sup> These resources are expected to create 2,5000 jobs through building and maintaining infrastructure using labour intensive methods.<sup>2072</sup>

On 6 October 2020, President Ramaphosa launched the Mooikloof Mega Residential City in Tshwane, Gauteng, to assist the “missing middle” class.<sup>2073</sup> These are people who earn too much to qualify for completely subsidized housing but also cannot afford debt-financed housing in areas they want to live.<sup>2074</sup> This project is one of the strategic integrated projects announced at the end of July

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<sup>2065</sup> Construction of first of nine waste disposal facilities in Cape starts, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 12 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/12/construction-of-first-of-nine-waste-disposal-facilities-in-cape-starts/>

<sup>2066</sup> Construction of first of nine waste disposal facilities in Cape starts, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 12 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/12/construction-of-first-of-nine-waste-disposal-facilities-in-cape-starts/>

<sup>2067</sup> Ramaphosa has a plan for a new ‘smart city’ in Gauteng, *BusinessTech (Cape Town)* 14 February 2020. Access Date: 21 February 2020. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/technology/374270/ramaphosa-has-a-plan-for-a-new-smart-city-in-gauteng/>.

<sup>2068</sup> Sisulu pledges R143 million for water supply at Sekhukhune District Municipality, *infrastructurenews (Sandton)* 17 February 2020. Access Date: 30 March 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/17/sisulu-pledges-r143-million-for-water-supply-at-sekhukhune-district-municipality/>.

<sup>2069</sup> R60bn allocated for Gauteng infrastructure, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 25 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/25/r60bn-allocated-for-gauteng-infrastructure/>

<sup>2070</sup> R60bn allocated for Gauteng infrastructure, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 25 February 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/02/25/r60bn-allocated-for-gauteng-infrastructure/>

<sup>2071</sup> R554m set aside to create jobs through infrastructure projects, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 23 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/07/23/r554m-set-aside-to-create-jobs-through-infrastructure-projects/>

<sup>2072</sup> R554m set aside to create jobs through infrastructure projects, *infrastructurenews (Gauteng)* 23 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/07/23/r554m-set-aside-to-create-jobs-through-infrastructure-projects/>

<sup>2073</sup> R84 billion mega-city in Gauteng to address housing for ‘missing middle’, *Infrastructure News (Tshwane)* 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/10/06/r84-billion-mega-city-in-gauteng-to-address-housing-for-missing-middle/>

<sup>2074</sup> R84 billion mega-city in Gauteng to address housing for ‘missing middle’, *Infrastructure News (Tshwane)* 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/10/06/r84-billion-mega-city-in-gauteng-to-address-housing-for-missing-middle/>

and is worth over SAR84 billion.<sup>2075</sup> This infrastructure project will create 50,000 residential units and 41,000 jobs.<sup>2076</sup>

South Africa has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions that are in line with five of the six principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments, building resilience against natural disasters and other risks, improving infrastructure governance and integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Sophia Bai, Ian Stansbury and Yupeng Huang*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 3 October 2019, Turkey's New Economic Program outlined various projects that would support the tourism industry. The program entails transportation infrastructure upgrades, increasing passenger capacity for Antalya Airport, and constructing a new cruise port in Yenikapi. This program hopes to diversify tourism markets and attract more tourists to Turkey in order to achieve economic growth.<sup>2077</sup>

On 14 October 2019, Transportation and Infrastructure Minister Cahit Turhan announced that the Ankara-Sivas high speed railway construction is on schedule and will be ready before June 2020. Turhan stressed the importance of high-speed train service in reducing travel time across the country, noting that construction is underway on the Ankara-İzmir, Bursa-Osmaneli, Mersin-Gaziantep, and Karaman-Yenice lines. The Ankara-Sivas line will serve as an important connector to Asian countries on the Silk Road route, cutting travel time from 12 hours to two, and thereby foster economic growth.<sup>2078</sup>

On 7 January 2020, a spokesman for Istanbul's mayor Ekrem Imamoglu revealed that the municipality was no longer involved in Istanbul Canal. President Erdoğan defended the project by citing its potential for job creation and boost Turkey's economy. However, this project has faced backlash from the general public and Istanbul's mayor, citing concerns over environmental damage.<sup>2079</sup>

On 18 January 2020, President Erdoğan announced that the first phase of the Galataport project. He spoke briefly about the project, saying that it will be a place where cruise ships dock and an

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<sup>2075</sup> R84 billion mega-city in Gauteng to address housing for 'missing middle', Infrastructure News (Tshwane) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/10/06/r84-billion-mega-city-in-gauteng-to-address-housing-for-missing-middle/>

<sup>2076</sup> R84 billion mega-city in Gauteng to address housing for 'missing middle', Infrastructure News (Tshwane) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://infrastructurenews.co.za/2020/10/06/r84-billion-mega-city-in-gauteng-to-address-housing-for-missing-middle/>

<sup>2077</sup> Infrastructure expansion to reinforce tourism industry, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/tourism/2019/10/03/infrastructure-expansion-to-reinforce-tourism-industry>.

<sup>2078</sup> Ankara-Sivas high-speed train to be ready before June 2020, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/2019/10/13/ankara-sivas-high-speed-train-to-be-ready-before-june-2020>.

<sup>2079</sup> Istanbul's mayor doesn't want Arabs to invest in Canal Istanbul project, Middle East Eye (London) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/istanbul-mayor-doesnt-want-arabs-invest-canal-istanbul-project>.

important center for tourism. Its main aim is to attract tourists and expand the tourism industry, thereby foster economic growth.<sup>2080</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Information and Communication Technologies Authority announced the creation of a National Mobile Warning System (UYARSİS) to inform citizens before, during, and after natural disasters and other emergencies. UYARSİS will also employ visual and voice messages to warn and inform elderly and disabled citizens.<sup>2081</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Transport and Infrastructure Minister Cahit Turhan announced the beginning of railways projects to connect Eskişehir to Antalya via Kütahya and Afyonkarahisar. It is part of the plan to increase Turkey's export target of USD1 trillion by 2053 and will foster economic growth.<sup>2082</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the Youth and Sports Ministry of Turkey announced the development of social and sports facilities for refugees in the country.<sup>2083</sup> A total of 28 sports facilities would be constructed.<sup>2084</sup> The goal is to increase the quality of life for refugees and improve interactions between Syrian and Turkish youth.<sup>2085</sup>

On 4 September 2020, President Erdoğan unveiled the Ankara-Niğde highway. The first and third sections were opened, with the remaining scheduled to open on 29 October. The highway is also fitted with fibre optic cable infrastructure, traffic sensors, incident detection cameras and smart transportation field management units to cut travel time and increase efficiency of the transportation infrastructure.<sup>2086</sup>

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with four of the principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments, building resilience against natural disasters and other risks and integrating social considerations in infrastructure investment.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alice Wang*

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<sup>2080</sup> President Erdoğan said and announced the project that will amaze the world! Coming into service at the end of the year, Aksam (Istanbul) 18 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://www.aksam.com.tr/siyaset/baskan-erdogan-dunyayi-hayran-birakacak-proje-dedi-ve-duyurdu-yil-sonu-hizmete-giriyor/haber-1038462>.

<sup>2081</sup> Turkey to roll out national disaster warning system, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-roll-out-national-disaster-warning-system/news>.

<sup>2082</sup> Minister Turhan announced the Eskişehir-Antalya high speed line, Aksam (Istanbul) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.aksam.com.tr/guncel/bakan-turhandan-eskisehirantalya-hizli-demiryolu-hatti-aciklamasi/haber-1040982>.

<sup>2083</sup> Turkey to build sports facilities for young Syrian refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-build-sports-facilities-for-young-syrian-refugees/news>

<sup>2084</sup> Turkey to build sports facilities for young Syrian refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-build-sports-facilities-for-young-syrian-refugees/news>

<sup>2085</sup> Turkey to build sports facilities for young Syrian refugees, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/turkey-to-build-sports-facilities-for-young-syrian-refugees/news>

<sup>2086</sup> Turkey inaugurates 'highway of future' to connect Ankara, Niğde, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 4 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/business/transportation/turkey-inaugurates-highway-of-future-to-connect-ankara-nigde>.



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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 10 September 2019, the British government announced they are going to invest approximately USD650 million in green technology. The money will go towards developments in charging infrastructures for electric vehicles and utilities to improve air and water pollution and increase sustainability.<sup>2087</sup>

On 26 September 2019, Scottish Parliament has committed USD170 million in the coming year to support the establishment of the Scottish National Investment Bank with a focus on green investment at its core.<sup>2088</sup>

On 4 October 2019, The National Infrastructure Commission received the Institution of Civil Engineers' Chris Binnie Award for Sustainable Water Management for improving the resilience of England's water supply to drought.<sup>2089</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced the Town Fund prospectus, which "paves the way for a new generation of Town Deals to regenerate town centres, boost businesses and improve infrastructure."<sup>2090</sup> Councils in 100 places chosen to pioneer these Town Deals will receive a share of GBP16.4 million to fund local infrastructure projects.<sup>2091</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced a further five successful Housing Infrastructure Fund projects.<sup>2092</sup> More than GBP374 million will be invested in roads, schools, public transport and utilities in Swindon, Wiltshire, Cornwall, North Somerset and Medway. This infrastructure investment aims to unlock up to 32,000 homes.<sup>2093</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the UK announced a plan to strengthen power networks and make it more resilient to power outages in the future.<sup>2094</sup> The plan will "assess the need for improvements to the

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<sup>2087</sup> Over £500m new investment in green technologies for a cleaner and healthier future, Infrastructure and Project Authority (London) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-500m-new-investment-in-green-technologies-for-a-cleaner-and-healthier-future>.

<sup>2088</sup> Green economy ambition, Scottish Government (Glasgow) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/green-economy-ambition/>.

<sup>2089</sup> Commission vision for drought resilience recognised by engineering experts, National Infrastructure Commission (London) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.nic.org.uk/news/commission-vision-for-drought-resilience-recognised-by-engineering-experts/>.

<sup>2090</sup> Blueprint for 100 multi-million pound Town Deals revealed, Government of the UK (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blueprint-for-100-multi-million-pound-town-deals-revealed>

<sup>2091</sup> Blueprint for 100 multi-million pound Town Deals revealed, Government of the UK (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/blueprint-for-100-multi-million-pound-town-deals-revealed>

<sup>2092</sup> Full steam ahead as infrastructure revolution advances, Government of the UK (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/full-steam-ahead-as-infrastructure-revolution-advances>

<sup>2093</sup> Full steam ahead as infrastructure revolution advances, Government of the UK (London) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/full-steam-ahead-as-infrastructure-revolution-advances>

<sup>2094</sup> Measures to make Britain's power network more resilient planned, after August power outage, Government of the UK (London) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measures-to-make-britains-power-network-more-resilient-planned-after-august-power-outage>

governance, monitoring and enforcement processes for large and smaller generators; review the pros and cons of requiring National Grid Electricity System Operator to hold additional back-up generation; support essential services owners and operators to put in place more robust business continuity plans; [and] roll out new communications processes to ensure the general public receives regular updates during any future disruptions.”<sup>2095</sup>

On 20 January 2020, the Department for International Development announced a partnership with Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda and the African Development for quality infrastructure investment in sustainable energy, solar energy, transport and telecommunications projects.<sup>2096</sup> These projects will focus on sustainability and low carbon emissions.<sup>2097</sup>

On 21 January 2020, the UK announced an investment of over GBP50 million for clean energy projects across Africa.<sup>2098</sup> This funding will go towards solar farms in Kenya, clean energy storage in sub-Saharan Africa and geothermal power stations in Ethiopia, assisting in green solutions for growing energy needs and creating jobs.<sup>2099</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Environmental Agency approved of a multi-million-pound flood scheme in Rochdale and Littleborough.<sup>2100</sup> The project aims to create the largest and most complex inland flood risk management scheme in northern England.<sup>2101</sup> The Rochdale and Littleborough Flood Alleviation Scheme will improve flood protection for 1,000 residential buildings and 200 local businesses, among other infrastructure in the area.<sup>2102</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the UK announced GBP70 million funding for 38 new projects to power quantum technology to mark the start of Quantum Tech Digital Week.<sup>2103</sup> This funding comes from a wider

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<sup>2095</sup> Measures to make Britain's power network more resilient planned, after August power outage, Government of the UK (London) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/measures-to-make-britains-power-network-more-resilient-planned-after-august-power-outage>

<sup>2096</sup> International Development Secretary launches new venture to create rich pipeline of infrastructure projects across Africa, Government of the UK (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-launches-new-venture-to-create-rich-pipeline-of-infrastructure-projects-across-africa>

<sup>2097</sup> International Development Secretary launches new venture to create rich pipeline of infrastructure projects across Africa, Government of the UK (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/international-development-secretary-launches-new-venture-to-create-rich-pipeline-of-infrastructure-projects-across-africa>

<sup>2098</sup> Over £50 million for clean energy projects across Africa, Government of the UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-50-million-for-clean-energy-projects-across-africa>

<sup>2099</sup> Over £50 million for clean energy projects across Africa, Government of the UK (London) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-50-million-for-clean-energy-projects-across-africa>

<sup>2100</sup> Multi-million pound flood scheme in Rochdale and Littleborough given the green light, Government of the UK (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-flood-scheme-in-rochdale-and-littleborough-given-the-green-light>

<sup>2101</sup> Multi-million pound flood scheme in Rochdale and Littleborough given the green light, Government of the UK (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-flood-scheme-in-rochdale-and-littleborough-given-the-green-light>

<sup>2102</sup> Multi-million pound flood scheme in Rochdale and Littleborough given the green light, Government of the UK (London) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-flood-scheme-in-rochdale-and-littleborough-given-the-green-light>

<sup>2103</sup> £70 million funding to secure UK position as a world-leader in quantum technology, Government of the UK (London) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/70-million-funding-to-secure-uk-position-as-a-world-leader-in-quantum-technology>

GBP1 billion investment to commercialize quantum innovation and help the UK become the world-leader in quantum sciences and technologies.<sup>2104</sup> These projects will aim “to solve global challenges and address key industrial challenges, from developing batteries for electric vehicles to innovating energy storage systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, via the use of advanced quantum technologies.”<sup>2105</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>2106</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of AI regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>2107</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>2108</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the UK launched the second phase of a GBP40 million flood scheme in Bury to reduce flood risks to more than 800 homes and businesses.<sup>2109</sup> This scheme is part of the Environment Agency’s GBP2.6 billion investment in flood defences and will both reduce the risk of flooding and keep transport routes and infrastructure open during floods.<sup>2110</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the UK announced a GBP73.5 million investment for the automotive industry to develop advanced technology to cut carbon emissions.<sup>2111</sup> The funding will go to 10 projects and will contribute to safeguarding over 14,000 UK research and manufacturing jobs, as well as kickstarting green transport recovery, new technologies and cleaner fuels.<sup>2112</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the UK announced a GBP80 million investment to help heavy industry go green which will contribute to cutting energy costs, protecting jobs and decreasing carbon emissions.<sup>2113</sup>

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<sup>2104</sup> £70 million funding to secure UK position as a world-leader in quantum technology, Government of the UK (London) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/70-million-funding-to-secure-uk-position-as-a-world-leader-in-quantum-technology>

<sup>2105</sup> £70 million funding to secure UK position as a world-leader in quantum technology, Government of the UK (London) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/70-million-funding-to-secure-uk-position-as-a-world-leader-in-quantum-technology>

<sup>2106</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2107</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2108</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2109</sup> Work to start on second phase of £40m flood scheme in Bury., Government of the UK (London) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-to-start-on-second-phase-of-40m-flood-scheme-in-bury>

<sup>2110</sup> Work to start on second phase of £40m flood scheme in Bury., Government of the UK (London) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-to-start-on-second-phase-of-40m-flood-scheme-in-bury>

<sup>2111</sup> £73.5 million to boost green economic recovery in automotive sector, Government of the UK (London) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/735-million-to-boost-green-economic-recovery-in-automotive-sector>

<sup>2112</sup> £73.5 million to boost green economic recovery in automotive sector, Government of the UK (London) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/735-million-to-boost-green-economic-recovery-in-automotive-sector>

<sup>2113</sup> £80 million boost to cut emissions from homes and industry, Government of the UK (London) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-boost-to-cut-emissions-from-homes-and-industry>

GBP30 million will be invested in the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund to support energy intensive manufacturers to cut down on their carbon footprint, GBP25 million will go to heat networks and GBP24 million will be invested in innovative projects that install green tech and insulation in houses.<sup>2114</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the UK announced GBP400 million worth of funding for cutting-edge aerospace research and development projects.<sup>2115</sup> The government grants total GBP200 million and will be matched by industry.<sup>2116</sup> This funding aims to secure highly skilled jobs in the aerospace sector and contribute to the UK's goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>2117</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the UK announced an investment of GBP100 million for a new state-of-the-art Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult Manufacturing Innovation Centre to speed up the mass production of a COVID-19 vaccine.<sup>2118</sup> It is due to open in December 2021 and will create new, high skilled jobs in a sector that aims to employ over 6,000 by 2024.<sup>2119</sup>

On 4 August 2020, the UK announced GBP1.3 billion to deliver up to 45,000 homes, 85,000 jobs and upgrade infrastructure to fuel a green economic recovery.<sup>2120</sup> GBP900 million will go to more than 300 shovel-ready projects to build homes, infrastructure and create job and GBP360 million will create 26,000 new homes on brownfield land.<sup>2121</sup>

On 11 August 2020, the UK announced GBP50,000 funding each for 17 projects that will build offshore wind farms, digitize construction sites and create low carbon heat from disused mines.<sup>2122</sup>

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<sup>2114</sup> £80 million boost to cut emissions from homes and industry, Government of the UK (London) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-boost-to-cut-emissions-from-homes-and-industry>

<sup>2115</sup> UK aerospace sector to benefit from £400 million funding to go green, Government of the UK (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aerospace-sector-to-benefit-from-400-million-funding-to-go-green>

<sup>2116</sup> UK aerospace sector to benefit from £400 million funding to go green, Government of the UK (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aerospace-sector-to-benefit-from-400-million-funding-to-go-green>

<sup>2117</sup> UK aerospace sector to benefit from £400 million funding to go green, Government of the UK (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aerospace-sector-to-benefit-from-400-million-funding-to-go-green>

<sup>2118</sup> Over £100 million cash boost to manufacture millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine, Government of the UK (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-100-million-cash-boost-to-manufacture-millions-of-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>2119</sup> Over £100 million cash boost to manufacture millions of doses of COVID-19 vaccine, Government of the UK (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/over-100-million-cash-boost-to-manufacture-millions-of-doses-of-covid-19-vaccine>

<sup>2120</sup> £1.3 billion investment to deliver homes, infrastructure and jobs, Government of the UK (London) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-3-billion-investment-to-deliver-homes-infrastructure-and-jobs>

<sup>2121</sup> £1.3 billion investment to deliver homes, infrastructure and jobs, Government of the UK (London) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-3-billion-investment-to-deliver-homes-infrastructure-and-jobs>

<sup>2122</sup> Projects to heat homes through disused mines and faster offshore wind farm construction win government backing, Government of the UK (London) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/projects-to-heat-homes-through-disused-mines-and-faster-offshore-wind-farm-construction-win-government-backing>

These projects will build infrastructure and create jobs in an environmentally considerate way.<sup>2123</sup> They will also be able to apply for further investment if they are successful.<sup>2124</sup>

On 13 August 2020, the UK announced GBP8 million for low carbon heat projects in south Wales as part of the UK's GBP320 million Heat Networks Investment Project.<sup>2125</sup> This funding aims to “develop a new system of distribution pipes taking excess heat from a central source such as energy generated from waste in Cardiff, and a Combined Heat and Power plant with thermal storage facility in Bridgend. These sources will then supply heat to public buildings within the town and city centre, and can easily connect to new, lower carbon heat sources in the future.”<sup>2126</sup>

On 17 August 2020, the UK announced a GBP10 million fund for distilleries to go green and cut emissions through changing to low carbon fuels such as hydrogen.<sup>2127</sup> This funding will go to distilleries across Scotland.<sup>2128</sup>

On 18 August 2020, Homes England and Network Rail announced a GBP77 million investment in York's new city centre quarter development.<sup>2129</sup> This investment will enable the creation of key infrastructure to increase connectivity, build homes, and develop commercial property.<sup>2130</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government announced an investment of GBP12.2 billion for affordable housing and a new GBP11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, unlocking a further GBP38 billion in public and private investment in affordable housing.<sup>2131</sup> These homes will be available for affordable ownership and affordable and social rent. Furthermore, the Housing Secretary announced a new model for Shared Ownership “to help more

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<sup>2123</sup> Projects to heat homes through disused mines and faster offshore wind farm construction win government backing, Government of the UK (London) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/projects-to-heat-homes-through-disused-mines-and-faster-offshore-wind-farm-construction-win-government-backing>

<sup>2124</sup> Projects to heat homes through disused mines and faster offshore wind farm construction win government backing, Government of the UK (London) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/projects-to-heat-homes-through-disused-mines-and-faster-offshore-wind-farm-construction-win-government-backing>

<sup>2125</sup> £8 million boost for low carbon heat projects in south Wales, Government of the UK (London) 13 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-million-boost-for-low-carbon-heat-projects-in-south-wales--2>

<sup>2126</sup> Whisky goes green thanks to UK government funding, Government of the UK (London) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/whisky-goes-green-thanks-to-uk-government-funding>

<sup>2127</sup> £8 million boost for low carbon heat projects in south Wales, Government of the UK (London) 13 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8-million-boost-for-low-carbon-heat-projects-in-south-wales--2>

<sup>2128</sup> Whisky goes green thanks to UK government funding, Government of the UK (London) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/whisky-goes-green-thanks-to-uk-government-funding>

<sup>2129</sup> Whisky goes green thanks to UK government funding, Government of the UK (London) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/whisky-goes-green-thanks-to-uk-government-funding>

<sup>2130</sup> York Central infrastructure funding confirmed, Government of the UK (London) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/york-central-infrastructure-funding-confirmed>

<sup>2131</sup> York Central infrastructure funding confirmed, Government of the UK (London) 18 August 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/york-central-infrastructure-funding-confirmed>

<sup>2131</sup> Jenrick unveils huge £12 billion boost for affordable homes, Government of the UK (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jenrick-unveils-huge-12-billion-boost-for-affordable-homes>

people onto the property ladder by vastly reducing the minimum initial share, and launching a consultation to ensure new homes deliver the accessibility that families need.”<sup>2132</sup>

On 10 September 2020, the UK announced GBP65 million investment through the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund to investment in infrastructure that helps make the UK “the global home for future technologies in battery development, robotics and advanced healthcare treatments.”<sup>2133</sup> This investment also contributes to the UK’s goal of a low carbon economy and developing solutions that improve people’s quality of life.<sup>2134</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the UK announced funding of GBP300 million for innovative business proposals and projects to boost the UK’s manufacturing capabilities.<sup>2135</sup> This is available through the Manufacturing Made Smarter program and aims to increase manufacturing productivity by 30 per cent.<sup>2136</sup>

On 21 September 2020, the UK announced GBP50 million funding for a new Clean Energy Innovation Facility under the UK’s International Climate Finance.<sup>2137</sup> The Clean Energy Innovation Facility will support innovative clean technologies in developing countries to foster clean growth in industry, cooling, smart energy and storage.<sup>2138</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the Department for Transport announced GBP56 million extra funding for local transport infrastructure in Portsmouth and South East Hampshire.<sup>2139</sup> The funding will go towards green improvements in local transport and will support greater access to opportunities for locals.<sup>2140</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the UK announced news plans to Build Back Greener by making the UK the world leader in clean wind energy. GBP160 million funding is being invested in upgrading ports and

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<sup>2132</sup> Jenrick unveils huge £12 billion boost for affordable homes, Government of the UK (London) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jenrick-unveils-huge-12-billion-boost-for-affordable-homes>

<sup>2133</sup> Government investment to help build robots for nuclear plants and batteries for electric aeroplanes, Government of the UK (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-investment-to-help-build-robots-for-nuclear-plants-and-batteries-for-electric-aeroplanes>

<sup>2134</sup> Government investment to help build robots for nuclear plants and batteries for electric aeroplanes, Government of the UK (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-investment-to-help-build-robots-for-nuclear-plants-and-batteries-for-electric-aeroplanes>

<sup>2135</sup> £300 million to boost UK manufacturing productivity by 30%, Government of the UK (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-to-boost-uk-manufacturing-productivity-by-30>

<sup>2136</sup> £300 million to boost UK manufacturing productivity by 30%, Government of the UK (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/300-million-to-boost-uk-manufacturing-productivity-by-30>

<sup>2137</sup> UK kicks off Climate Week NYC with a series of ambitious climate commitments, Government of the UK (London) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kicks-off-climate-week-nyc-with-a-series-of-ambitious-climate-commitments>

<sup>2138</sup> UK kicks off Climate Week NYC with a series of ambitious climate commitments, Government of the UK (London) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-kicks-off-climate-week-nyc-with-a-series-of-ambitious-climate-commitments>

<sup>2139</sup> £56 million announced to transform Portsmouth and South East Hampshire transport network, Government of the UK (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/56-million-announced-to-transform-portsmouth-and-south-east-hampshire-transport-network>

<sup>2140</sup> £56 million announced to transform Portsmouth and South East Hampshire transport network, Government of the UK (London) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/56-million-announced-to-transform-portsmouth-and-south-east-hampshire-transport-network>

infrastructure across the UK to increase offshore wind capacity.<sup>2141</sup> This investment will create 2,000 jobs and “enable the sector to support up to 60,000 jobs directly and indirectly by 2030 in ports, factories and the supply chains, manufacturing the next-generation of offshore wind turbines and delivering clean energy to the UK.”<sup>2142</sup>

On 8 October 2020, the Department for Transport announced the GBP51 million upgrade of the A19 has begun, six months ahead of schedule, as part of the UK’s initiative to improve Northern transport infrastructure.<sup>2143</sup> The UK is using infrastructure investments to support economic recovery and improve access to opportunities in the North.<sup>2144</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration by taking actions in line with four of the principles: maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, integrating environmental considerations, and building resilience against natural disasters and other risks.

Thus, United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Abby Lessard*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration.

On 9 August 2019, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao announced funding worth over USD109 million towards “234 states and 2 tribal nations as part of the 911 Grant Program, which will help 911 call center upgrade to Next Generation 911 capabilities.” The goal of this project is to boost public safety and provide a more resilient emergency system.<sup>2145</sup>

On 15 August 2019, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry announced funding worth of approximately USD40 million towards 29 projects to advance the H2@Scale Concept. The focus of the projects will be on “affordable and reliable large-scale hydrogen generation, transport, storage, and utilization in the United States across multiple sectors.” Further, the goal of these projects is to help to unite domestic energy sources, improve the affordability of hydrogen storage and create an additional revenue stream.<sup>2146</sup>

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<sup>2141</sup> New plans to make UK world leader in green energy, Government of the UK (London) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-make-uk-world-leader-in-green-energy>

<sup>2142</sup> New plans to make UK world leader in green energy, Government of the UK (London) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-to-make-uk-world-leader-in-green-energy>

<sup>2143</sup> Work starts 6 months ahead of schedule on £51 million A19 upgrade, Government of the UK (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-starts-6-months-ahead-of-schedule-on-51-million-a19-upgrade>

<sup>2144</sup> Work starts 6 months ahead of schedule on £51 million A19 upgrade, Government of the UK (London) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/work-starts-6-months-ahead-of-schedule-on-51-million-a19-upgrade>

<sup>2145</sup> Department of Commerce and Transportation Announced \$109 million in Grants to Modernize 911 Services for States and Tribal Nations 09/08/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/departments-commerce-and-transportation-announce-109-million-grants-modernize-911>.

<sup>2146</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$40 Million in Funding for 29 Projects to Advance H2@Scale Concept 15/08/2019, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-40-million-funding-29-projects-advance-h2scale>.

On 28 August 2019, Secretary Elaine Chao announced funding worth USD225 million for “20 projects in 18 states to fund a variety of bridge improvements, including replacement and rehabilitation” as part of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP). The goals of these projects are to support bridge improvements across the U.S., especially in rural areas, and to provide an example of innovative time and cost savings for future repairs.<sup>2147</sup>

On 18 September 2019, Secretary Chao announced federal funding worth approximately USD60 million towards testing the “safe integration of automated driving systems (ADS) on...roadways.” The funding will go towards eight projects across seven different states, which “aim to gather significant safety data to inform rulemaking and foster collaboration amongst state and local government and private partners.”<sup>2148</sup>

On 20 September 2019, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced funding worth USD56.5 million to 32 winners towards advanced coal technologies and research. The aim of the funding includes the development of “carbon capture, utilization, and storage,” and the improvement of clean coal technologies to support coal as an environmentally responsible energy source.<sup>2149</sup>

On 20 September 2019, Secretary Chao announced the formation of the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee and the appointment of 19 members in pursuant of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. The aim of the committee is to identify disability barriers encountered by air travelers and to recommend actions and improvements to ensure inclusivity and assistance to those who need it.<sup>2150</sup>

On 23 September 2019, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD986 million towards 354 airports across 44 states and Puerto Rico and Micronesia, as part of the “fifth allotment of the total USD3.18 billion in Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airport Improvement Program (AIP).” These projects will aim to improve airport infrastructure across the United States, supporting economic competitiveness and improving quality of life.<sup>2151</sup>

On 26 September 2019, the DOE announced funding worth approximately USD4.6 million through its Office of Fossil Energy to go to four projects to “accelerate the development and commercialization of treatment technologies that reduce wastewater...and increase water supplies for

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<sup>2147</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$225 Million in Grants 28/08/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-225-million-grants>.

<sup>2148</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Announces Automated Driving System Demonstration Grant Winners 18/09/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-announces-automated-driving-system-demonstration-grant>.

<sup>2149</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Invests \$56 Million in Coal Technology Projects 20/09/2019, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-invests-56-million-coal-technology-projects>.

<sup>2150</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Formation and Membership of the Air Carrier Access Act Advisory Committee 20/09/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-formation-and-membership-air-carrier-access-act>.

<sup>2151</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Nearly One Billion Dollars in Infrastructure Grants to 354 Airports in 44 States 23/09/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-nearly-one-billion-dollars>.



reuse.” The aim of these projects is to “transform the energy sector’s produced water from a waste to a resource.”<sup>2152</sup>

On 8 October 2019, Secretary Elaine Chao announced the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative to “ensure nationwide outcomes for rural communities’ transportation infrastructure.” The goal of the initiative will be to assist “rural stakeholders in understanding how to access [Department of Transportation] grants and financing products and developing data-driven approaches to better assess needs and benefits of rural transportation projects.”<sup>2153</sup>

On 16 October 2019, Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Donald LaVoy announced funding worth USD201 million through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Waste and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program “to improve rural water infrastructure in 31 states.” The aim of the funding is to enhance “drinking water, stormwater drainage and waste disposal systems in rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residences” and is expected to benefit 300,000 residents.<sup>2154</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the DOE announced funding worth USD28 million distributed to 13 projects to “advance wind energy nationwide.” The aim of these projects is to reduce costs and increase consumer options for wind across the United States.<sup>2155</sup>

On 29 October 2019, Secretary Chao announced funding worth nearly USD50 million to be used towards providing access to transportation “for people with disabilities, older adults, and individuals of low income.” The purpose of the project is to identify ways to provide more efficient, affordable and accessible transportation to underserved communities.<sup>2156</sup>

On 31 October 2019, the DOE announced funding worth USD24.9 million “to advance the marine and hydrokinetics industry and increase hydropower’s ability to serve as a flexible grid resource.” The goal of these projects is to “strengthen U.S. manufacturing competitiveness” and improve the capability of sustainable technologies.<sup>2157</sup>

On 6 November 2019, the DOE announced funding worth USD128 million through the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Solar Energy Technology’s Office, towards 75 new

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<sup>2152</sup> Department of Energy Invests \$4.6M in Produced Water Treatment 26/09/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/department-energy-invests-46m-produced-water-treatment>.

<sup>2153</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Announces Major New Initiative to Support Rural Transportation Needs 08/10/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (St. Louis) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-major-new-initiative-support-rural>.

<sup>2154</sup> USDA Invests in Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Improvements in 31 States 16/10/2019, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Washington D.C.) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2019/10/16/usda-invests-water-and-wastewater-infrastructure-improvements-31>.

<sup>2155</sup> DOE Awards \$28 Million for Wind Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects 22/10/2019, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-28-million-wind-energy-research-development-and-demonstration-projects>.

<sup>2156</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Nearly \$50 Million to Improve Access and Mobility for All Americans 29/10/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-nearly-50-million-improve-access>.

<sup>2157</sup> DOE Announces \$24.9 Million Funding Selections to Advance Hydropower and Water Technologies 31/10/2019, Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 31 October 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-249-million-funding-selections-advance-hydropower-and-water-technologies>.

projects that will advance solar technologies. The aim of the funding is to “lower electricity costs...boost solar manufacturing...and make solar systems more resilient to cyberattacks.”<sup>2158</sup>

On 12 November 2019, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD900 million towards surface transportation infrastructure across 55 projects in 35 states, as part of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program. The goal of the funding is to have a significant impact on their local or regional communities, especially those that are rural, towards which BUILD has allocated 50 per cent of the grants.<sup>2159</sup>

On 13 November 2019, the DOE announced funding worth up to USD15 million through the DOE’s Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs “to deploy energy infrastructure on tribal lands.” The goal of this funding is to provide more reliable electricity and “[promote] American energy independence by increasing domestic and international accessibility to American energy resources.”<sup>2160</sup>

On 14 November 2019, the DOE’s Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy announced funding worth up to USD43 million to “develop carbon capture and storage...technologies.” The funding will support the FLEXible Carbon Capture and Storage program with the aim to “develop technologies that address difficulties in the decarbonization of electricity systems” and to create more sustainable energy systems.<sup>2161</sup>

On 12 December 2019, Secretary Chao announced a loan worth up to USD502.9 million towards the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) In Virginia “to help finance several of HRTAC’s Regional Priority Projects.” The aim of the loan is to promote economic growth while improving mobility, capacity and safety in the area for both residents and travelers.<sup>2162</sup>

On 12 December 2019, Secretary Chao launched a pilot program called the Railroad Rehabilitation and Investment Financing Express, expected to provide up to USD26 million worth in additional funding as well as to expedite “long-term, low-cost loans for America’s short line and regional freight railroads.” The aim of the program is to “modernize ageing freight rail infrastructure.”<sup>2163</sup>

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<sup>2158</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$128 Million in New Projects to Advance Solar Technologies 06/11/2019, Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-128-million-new-projects-advance-solar-technologies>.

<sup>2159</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces \$900 Million Historic Investment in American Infrastructure 12/11/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-900-million-historic-investment>.

<sup>2160</sup> DOE Announces \$15 Million to Deploy Energy Infrastructure on Tribal Lands 13/11/2019, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-15-million-deploy-energy-infrastructure-tribal-lands>.

<sup>2161</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$43 Million to Develop Carbon Capture and Storage Technology 14/11/2019, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-43-million-develop-carbon-capture-and-storage-technology>.

<sup>2162</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Up to \$502.9 Million Loan for Infrastructure Projects in Hampton Roads, VA 12/12/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/DOT7919>.

<sup>2163</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Launches New Program to Modernize Rural Freight Rail 12/12/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-launches-new-program-modernize-rural-freight>.

On 17 December 2019, the DOE's Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy announced funding worth up to USD55 million "for two programs to support the development of low-cost electric aviation engine technology and powertrain systems." The aim of these programs is to support ultra-light and efficient electric motors and drives to achieve net-zero carbon emissions, as well as to develop a system to convert chemical energy to electric power for airplanes.<sup>2164</sup>

On 18 December 2019, Secretary Chao announced up to USD501.5 million worth of loans through the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act to complete the 540 Project in North Carolina. The project will increase capacity by adding new tolled lanes, several intersections, bridges and crossings to enhance economic growth and mobility while reducing congestion.<sup>2165</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the DOE announced funding worth almost USD25 million to be distributed through the DOE's Office of Fossil Energy to 16 projects, which aim "to advance natural gas infrastructure development." The goal of these projects is to improve the safety, reliability and efficiency of natural gas infrastructures in a cost-effective way.<sup>2166</sup>

On 15 January 2020, Secretary Chao announced over USD900 million worth of infrastructure investments available in 2020 for significant infrastructure projects across America as part of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant program. The aim of the funding will be to "help rebuild America's ageing infrastructure" with "the incorporation of innovative technology" and a focus on rural areas.<sup>2167</sup>

On 23 January 2020, the Under Secretary of Energy Mark W. Menezes announced funding of approximately USD300 million "for research and development of sustainable transportation resources and technologies," including batteries and electrification, hydrogen production, and biofuels and biopower.<sup>2168</sup> The aim of this funding is to provide consumers with affordable, clean, efficient, and domestic energy options as the transportation industry changes, integrating both social and environmental considerations.<sup>2169</sup>

On 29 January 2020, the DOE announced funding worth USD3.25 million towards the American-Made Geothermal Manufacturing Prize, "designed to spur innovation and address manufacturing

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<sup>2164</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$55 Million in Funding for Electric Aviation Programs 17/12/2020, Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-55-million-funding-electric-aviation-programs>.

<sup>2165</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Up to \$501.5 Million Loan for the complete 540 Project in Raleigh, NC 12/18/2019, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-5015-million-loan-complete-540-project-raleigh>.

<sup>2166</sup> DOE Awards \$25 Million to Improve Natural Gas Operations 03/01/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington D.C.) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-25-million-improve-natural-gas-operations>.

<sup>2167</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Availability of More Than \$900 Million for Infrastructure Investments Across America 15/01/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington D.C.) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-availability-more-900-million>.

<sup>2168</sup> Department of Energy Announces Nearly \$300 Million for Sustainable Transportation Research 23/01/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-nearly-300-million-sustainable-transportation-research>

<sup>2169</sup> Department of Energy Announces Nearly \$300 Million for Sustainable Transportation Research 23/01/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-nearly-300-million-sustainable-transportation-research>

challenges fundamental to operating in harsh geothermal environments.”<sup>2170</sup> The aim of the funding is to help expand the American geothermal industry, which provides a clean, reliable and affordable source of energy to homes and businesses, and to support the DOE’s target of 60 Gigawatts electric of geothermal capacity by 2050.<sup>2171</sup>

On 3 February 2020, the DOE, U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Defense together announced a new Energy Sector Pathfinder initiative.<sup>2172</sup> Through this partnership, the initiative aims to “advance information sharing, improve training and education to understand systemic risks, and develop joint operational preparedness and response activities to cybersecurity threats,” specifically in U.S. energy critical infrastructure.<sup>2173</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the U.S. Department of Treasury and Japan’s Ministries of Economy, Trade and Industry, and Finance signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on Strengthening Energy and Infrastructure Finance and Market Building.<sup>2174</sup> This commitment is intended to support private, innovative solutions to energy and infrastructure developments and aligns with the U.S. commitment to strengthen infrastructure governance by seeking to reduce legal and regulatory barriers, ensure transparency and economic efficiency and stimulate bilateral institutional infrastructure investments.<sup>2175</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the DOE announced up to USD125.5 million in funding towards “research and development of solar technologies that reduce the cost of solar, increase the competitiveness of American manufacturing and businesses, and improve the reliability of the grid.”<sup>2176</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the DOE announced up to USD64 million in funding towards research and development projects on developing cleaner coal technologies as part of the DOE’s Coal FIRST initiative.<sup>2177</sup> The aim of the project is to develop next generation coal technologies with zero or near-zero emissions, to be used by developing countries as they strengthen their economies.<sup>2178</sup>

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<sup>2170</sup> Department of Energy Announces New American-Made Challenge Prize 29/01/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-new-american-made-challenge-prize>

<sup>2171</sup> Department of Energy Announces New American-Made Challenge Prize 29/01/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-new-american-made-challenge-prize>

<sup>2172</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Department of Defense Announce Pathfinder Initiative to Protect U.S. Energy Critical Infrastructure 03/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-us-department-homeland-security-and-us-department-defense-announce>

<sup>2173</sup> U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Department of Defense Announce Pathfinder Initiative to Protect U.S. Energy Critical Infrastructure 03/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-us-department-homeland-security-and-us-department-defense-announce>

<sup>2174</sup> United States and Japan Sign Memorandum of Cooperation Strengthening Energy and Infrastructure Finance and Market Building 04/02/2020, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Tokyo). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm894>

<sup>2175</sup> United States and Japan Sign Memorandum of Cooperation Strengthening Energy and Infrastructure Finance and Market Building 04/02/2020, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Tokyo). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/sm894>

<sup>2176</sup> Department of Energy (DOE) Announces \$125.5 Million in New Funding for Solar Technologies 05/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-1255-million-new-funding-solar-technologies>

<sup>2177</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$64M for Components of Coal FIRST Power Plants 07/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

On 10 February 2020, the DOE and Hyundai Motor Company announced a collaboration to assess the state of emerging hydrogen and fuel cell technologies in the transportation industry.<sup>2179</sup> The aim of this partnership is to provide objective research on hydrogen as a potential sustainable fuel source and it aligns with the U.S. commitment to integrating environmental considerations in infrastructure investments.<sup>2180</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the DOE announced funding worth USD74 million towards 63 projects “to research, develop, and test energy-efficient and flexible building technologies, systems, and construction practices” to improve the nation’s electric grid.<sup>2181</sup> The aim of the project is to generate large energy costs savings by improving energy efficiency and flexibility in residential and commercial buildings.<sup>2182</sup> This project is in-line with the U.S. commitments to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development and to raising economic efficiency in terms of life-cycle costs, by developing new interactive energy grids.<sup>2183</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the DOE announced approximately USD187 million in funding towards 55 projects in 25 states which support innovations in manufacturing advanced materials, in lowering thermal budget processes to increase industrial efficiency, and in developing connected, flexible and efficient manufacturing facilities and energy systems.<sup>2184</sup> These projects support sustainable and renewable sources of energy to enhance the U.S. advanced manufacturing infrastructure and align with the U.S. commitments to maximizing the positive impact of infrastructure to achieve sustainable growth and development and to raising economic efficiency in terms of life-cycle costs.<sup>2185</sup>

On 11 February 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding of USD8.9 million towards 91 projects in 80 Federally recognized American Indian Tribal Nations to “improve traffic safety and improve the

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<https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-64m-components-coal-first-power-plants>

<sup>2178</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$64M for Components of Coal FIRST Power Plants 07/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-64m-components-coal-first-power-plants>

<sup>2179</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Joins Industry to Collaborate on Transportation Technology Validation and Assessment 10/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-joins-industry-collaborate-transportation-technology-validation-and>

<sup>2180</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Joins Industry to Collaborate on Transportation Technology Validation and Assessment 10/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-joins-industry-collaborate-transportation-technology-validation-and>

<sup>2181</sup> Department of Energy Invests \$74 Million in Building and Construction Technologies and Innovations 10/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-invests-74-million-building-and-construction-technologies-and-0>

<sup>2182</sup> Department of Energy Invests \$74 Million in Building and Construction Technologies and Innovations 10/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-invests-74-million-building-and-construction-technologies-and-0>

<sup>2183</sup> Department of Energy Invests \$74 Million in Building and Construction Technologies and Innovations 10/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-invests-74-million-building-and-construction-technologies-and-0>

<sup>2184</sup> Department of Energy Awards \$187 Million to Strengthen U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness 10/02/2020, U.S.

Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-awards-187-million-strengthen-us-manufacturing-competitiveness>

<sup>2185</sup> Department of Energy Awards \$187 Million to Strengthen U.S. Manufacturing Competitiveness 10/02/2020, U.S.

Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-awards-187-million-strengthen-us-manufacturing-competitiveness>

quality of life for tribal communities.”<sup>2186</sup> This funding is from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (USDOT) Federal Highway Administration’s Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund and it is in-line with the U.S. commitment to integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investments, and to maximizing the positive impact of existing infrastructure.<sup>2187</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the DOE announced funding worth USD50 million towards programs that support research and development on the development of fusion energy as a practical, safe and carbon-free energy source.<sup>2188</sup> The funding will support research by U.S. scientists in fusion facilities around the world and aligns with the U.S. commitment to integrate environmental decisions into its infrastructure investments.<sup>2189</sup>

On 14 February 2020, the USDOT Maritime Administration announced funding worth USD280 million for its Port Infrastructure Development Program, which aims to “improve port facilities at or near coastal seaports.”<sup>2190</sup> This goal is to “increase productivity, economic competitiveness, and create more jobs.”<sup>2191</sup>

On 18 February 2020, the DOE announced funding worth up to USD38.5 million to the Rapid Encapsulation of Pipelines Avoiding Intensive Replacement program, which will “sponsor new technologies to...rehabilitate...natural gas distribution pipes by creating a new pipe inside the old pipe.”<sup>2192</sup> This project will use new technologies such as inspection and 3D mapping tools to provide better quality and more cost-effective pipelines and aligns with the U.S. commitment to raise economic efficiency in terms of life cycle costs.<sup>2193</sup>

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<sup>2186</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces \$8.9 Million in Transportation Grants to Improve Highway Safety in Indian Country 11/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-89-million-transportation-grants>

<sup>2187</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces \$8.9 Million in Transportation Grants to Improve Highway Safety in Indian Country 11/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-89-million-transportation-grants>

<sup>2188</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$50 Million for Fusion Energy R&D 13/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-50-million-fusion-energy-rd>

<sup>2189</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$50 Million for Fusion Energy R&D 13/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-50-million-fusion-energy-rd>

<sup>2190</sup> Maritime Administration Announces More Than \$280 Million in Grants for Nation’s Ports 15/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/maritime-administration-announces-more-280-million-grants-nations-ports>

<sup>2191</sup> Maritime Administration Announces More Than \$280 Million in Grants for Nation’s Ports 15/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: June 30, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/maritime-administration-announces-more-280-million-grants-nations-ports>

<sup>2192</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$38.5 Million to Develop Technology to Rehabilitate Natural Gas Distribution Pipelines 18/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 2, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-385-million-develop-technology-rehabilitate-natural-gas>

<sup>2193</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$38.5 Million to Develop Technology to Rehabilitate Natural Gas Distribution Pipelines 18/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 2, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-385-million-develop-technology-rehabilitate-natural-gas>

On 19 February 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding of USD520.5 million towards 287 airport infrastructure grants across 41 states.<sup>2194</sup> The aim of the funding is to demonstrate a streamlined approval process and to “keep [the U.S.] airports in good shape and make air travel a better experience for passengers.”<sup>2195</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD100 million to be used over five years to “[accelerate] the fundamental scientific breakthroughs needed to enable solar fuel production.”<sup>2196</sup> The aim of the funding is to transform the U.S. energy economy and improve energy security by developing an artificial photosynthesis process for fuel.<sup>2197</sup>

On 24 February 2020, Secretary of Energy Dan Brouillette announced funding up to USD97 million in grants to 70 small businesses across 28 states as part of the DOE’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer program.<sup>2198</sup> This funding is to be used on testing energy, chemistry and biological prototypes and processes development, with the goal of increasing economic efficiency and employing high-level human capital.<sup>2199</sup>

On 24 February 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD12.2 million for the Small Community Air Service Development Program, which will help “18 communities in 18 states develop their own solutions to local air service needs....and make air travel a better experience for passengers.”<sup>2200</sup>

On 25 February 2020, the DOE announced funding worth USD74 million for 63 projects that will “research, develop and test energy-efficient and flexible building technologies, systems, and construction practices.”<sup>2201</sup> These projects integrate both societal and economic efficiency

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<sup>2194</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$520.5 Million to 287 Airports in 41 States 19/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 2, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-5205-million-287-airports-41>

<sup>2195</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$520.5 Million to 287 Airports in 41 States 19/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 2, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-5205-million-287-airports-41>

<sup>2196</sup> Department of Energy to Provide \$100 Million for Solar Fuels Research 19/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 4, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-100-million-solar-fuels-research>

<sup>2197</sup> Department of Energy to Provide \$100 Million for Solar Fuels Research 19/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 4, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-100-million-solar-fuels-research>

<sup>2198</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$97 Million for Small Business Research and Development Grants 24/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-97-million-small-business-research-and-development-grants>

<sup>2199</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$97 Million for Small Business Research and Development Grants 24/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-97-million-small-business-research-and-development-grants>

<sup>2200</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$12.2 Million in Grants to Help Small Communities Improve Air Service 24/02/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-122-million-grants-help-small>

<sup>2201</sup> Five Lighting Projects Among Recipients of DOE Building Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies (BENEFIT) Funding Awards 25/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/ssl/articles/five-lighting-projects-among-recipients-doe-building-energy-efficiency-frontiers>

considerations, aiming to “significantly improve energy affordability for American families and businesses.”<sup>2202</sup>

On 25 February 2020, the DOE’s Office of Electricity announced funding worth USD6.7 million towards four university-led projects that will try to improve connections and communication between digital and physical grid systems.<sup>2203</sup> The aim of the projects is to “extend operational performance, including maintaining energy supply to critical defense facilities,” especially in the case of disruptions.<sup>2204</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the DOE announced over USD6 million towards six projects that focus on promoting “a robust and sustainable national manufacturing research and development (R&D) infrastructure.”<sup>2205</sup> These projects aim to innovate “smart” manufacturing processes and facilitate a digital transformation in the manufacturing sector to improve quality and reduce costs.<sup>2206</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD39 million for the improvement and expansion of two Texas ports as part of the Port Infrastructure Development Program.<sup>2207</sup> The aim of the funds is to increase green space, capacity and to refurbish the ports.<sup>2208</sup>

On 10 March 2020, the DOE announced funding of USD1.5 million for a technology project as part of the DOE’s Crosscutting Research Project.<sup>2209</sup> The aim of the project is to ensure the U.S. has coal-

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<sup>2202</sup> Five Lighting Projects Among Recipients of DOE Building Energy Efficiency Frontiers & Innovation Technologies (BENEFIT) Funding Awards 25/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/ssl/articles/five-lighting-projects-among-recipients-doe-building-energy-efficiency-frontiers>

<sup>2203</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$6.7 Million for IoT Integration Research 25/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-67-million-iot-integration-research>

<sup>2204</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$6.7 Million for IoT Integration Research 25/02/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-67-million-iot-integration-research>

<sup>2205</sup> Energy Department Manufacturing Institute Selects Projects to Advance U.S. Leadership in Smart Manufacturing 09/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-manufacturing-institute-selects-projects-advance-us-leadership-smart>

<sup>2206</sup> Energy Department Manufacturing Institute Selects Projects to Advance U.S. Leadership in Smart Manufacturing 09/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-manufacturing-institute-selects-projects-advance-us-leadership-smart>

<sup>2207</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Formally Announces More Than \$39 Million for Improvement & Expansion of Two Texas Ports 10/03/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Houston). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-formally-announces-more-39-million>

<sup>2208</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Formally Announces More Than \$39 Million for Improvement & Expansion of Two Texas Ports 10/03/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Houston). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-formally-announces-more-39-million>

<sup>2209</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Selects Technology Project to Receive \$1.5M for Near-Zero Water Consumption at Power Plants 10/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/us-department-energy-selects-technology-project-receive-15m-near-zero-water-consumption>



fired power plans that will “provide stable power generation with operational flexibility, high efficiency, low emissions, and even lower water demand than now.”<sup>2210</sup>

On 12 March 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD248.5 million in grants to support 32 projects, both state and local, across 27 states.<sup>2211</sup> The funding is a part of the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program and aims “to improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of intercity passenger and freight rail systems.”<sup>2212</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD15 million towards developing energy resources on tribal lands, should the tribes so choose to use the funding.<sup>2213</sup> The funding is intended to “stabilize or reduce energy costs and increase energy security and resiliency for Indian Tribes and tribal members.”<sup>2214</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD22 million for research on developing carbon capture, utilization and storage for commercialization use, on a mass level.<sup>2215</sup> This funding aligns with the U.S. commitment to integrating environmental and social considerations in infrastructure investments.<sup>2216</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD20 million in offshore wind resource characterization and technology demonstration, intended to help “lower the cost of energy and technology risk, enabling continued cost-effective deployment of wind power.”<sup>2217</sup> The ultimate goal is to advance offshore wind energy technologies in the U.S. and to improve modelling for future sustainable projects.<sup>2218</sup>

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<sup>2210</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Selects Technology Project to Receive \$1.5M for Near-Zero Water Consumption at Power Plants 10/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/us-department-energy-selects-technology-project-receive-15m-near-zero-water-consumption>

<sup>2211</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$248.5 Million in Grants to Support Railroad Infrastructure 12/03/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-2485-million-grants-support>

<sup>2212</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$248.5 Million in Grants to Support Railroad Infrastructure 12/03/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-2485-million-grants-support>

<sup>2213</sup> Department of Energy Announces Up To \$15 Million for Tribes to Deploy Energy Technology 27/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-15-million-tribes-deploy-energy-technology>

<sup>2214</sup> Department of Energy Announces Up To \$15 Million for Tribes to Deploy Energy Technology 27/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-15-million-tribes-deploy-energy-technology>

<sup>2215</sup> Department of Energy Announces to Provide \$22 Million for Research on Capturing Carbon Dioxide from Air 30/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-22-million-research-capturing-carbon-dioxide-air>

<sup>2216</sup> Department of Energy Announces to Provide \$22 Million for Research on Capturing Carbon Dioxide from Air 30/03/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-22-million-research-capturing-carbon-dioxide-air>

<sup>2217</sup> Energy Department Announces \$20 Million Investment in Offshore Wind Resource Characterization and Technology Demonstration 01/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-20-million-investment-offshore-wind-resource>

<sup>2218</sup> Energy Department Announces \$20 Million Investment in Offshore Wind Resource Characterization and Technology Demonstration 01/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020.

<https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-announces-20-million-investment-offshore-wind-resource>

On 2 April 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD25 billion to help the U.S. public transportation systems respond to COVID-19 as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funding will be allocated to both large and small urban areas, as well as rural, and will insure the public transportation systems “can continue to provide services to the millions of Americans who depend on them.”<sup>2219</sup>

On 9 April 2020, the DOE announced up to USD38 million in funding to design economically affordable, more efficient Hydrokinetic Turbines for tidal and riverine currents.<sup>2220</sup> This funding aims to help with the commercialization of these turbines for clean, reliable electricity, to improve the diversification of the U.S. energy generation infrastructure, and to increase grid resiliency.<sup>2221</sup>

On 10 April 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD1 billion in funding for the National Railroad Passenger Corporation as part of the CARES Act.<sup>2222</sup> The aim of the fund is “to support the railroad’s activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States and its impacts on operations and business.”<sup>2223</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the Secretary Chao announced USD10 billion in relief funding to commercial and general aviation airports as part of the CARES Act Airport Grant Program.<sup>2224</sup> The funding is intended to “help fund the continued operations of [the U.S.] airports during this crisis and save workers’ jobs.”<sup>2225</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD28 million for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy program, ULtrahigh Temperature Impervious Materials Advancing Turbine Efficiency.<sup>2226</sup> This project aims to improve the efficiency and environmental sustainability of gas

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<sup>2219</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$25 Billion to Help Nation’s Public Transportation Systems Respond to COVID-19 02/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-25-billion-help-nations-public>

<sup>2220</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$38 Million to Support Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology Development 09/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-38-million-support-hydrokinetic-turbine-technology-development>

<sup>2221</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$38 Million to Support Hydrokinetic Turbine Technology Development 09/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-38-million-support-hydrokinetic-turbine-technology-development>

<sup>2222</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$1 Billion for Amtrak in Response to COVID-19 10/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-1-billion-amtrak-response-covid>

<sup>2223</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$1 Billion for Amtrak in Response to COVID-19 10/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-1-billion-amtrak-response-covid>

<sup>2224</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$10 Billion in Relief for America’s Airports 14/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-10-billion-relief-americas>

<sup>2225</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$10 Billion in Relief for America’s Airports 14/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-10-billion-relief-americas>

<sup>2226</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$28 Million to Develop Ultrahigh Temperature Materials for Gas Turbine Applications 21/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-28-million-develop-ultrahigh-temperature-materials-gas-turbine>

turbines across multiple power sectors, “from electricity generation to transportation and aviation.”<sup>2227</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the DOE announced approximately USD4 million of funding for five projects as part of its Rapid Advancement in Process Intensification Deployment Manufacturing Institute, which works on chemical and commodity processing, renewable bioproducts and natural gas upgrading.<sup>2228</sup> This aim of this funding is to “increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and promote a robust and sustainable national manufacturing research and development (R&D) infrastructure.”<sup>2229</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the DOE announced funding of USD25 million towards 10 projects as part of the Performance-based energy Resource Feedback, Optimization, and Risk Management program, and will work to “develop innovative management systems that represent the relative delivery risk of each asset...and balance the collective risk of all assets across the grid.”<sup>2230</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD131 million towards carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) research and development projects.<sup>2231</sup> The aim of this funding is to adapt new carbon capture technologies to industrial sources of emission to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and to make coal-intensive processes cleaner.<sup>2232</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Secretary Chao announced over USD1 billion in funding to 429 airports across 50 states in airport safety and infrastructure grants, as part of the CARES Act.<sup>2233</sup> The funding is

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<sup>2227</sup> Department of energy Announces \$28 Million to Develop Ultrahigh Temperature Materials for Gas Turbine Applications 21/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-28-million-develop-ultrahigh-temperature-materials-gas-turbine>

<sup>2228</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$25 Million for Grid Management Systems and Risk Assessment Systems 23/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-25-million-grid-management-systems-and-risk-assessment-systems>

<sup>2229</sup> Energy Department Manufacturing Institute Announces New Projects for Innovative Process Intensification 22/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/energy-department-manufacturing-institute-announces-new-projects-innovative-process>

<sup>2230</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$25 Million for Grid Management Systems and Risk Assessment Systems 23/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-25-million-grid-management-systems-and-risk-assessment-systems>

<sup>2231</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$131 Million for CCUS Technologies 24/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-131-million-ccus-technologies>

<sup>2232</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$131 Million for CCUS Technologies 24/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-131-million-ccus-technologies>

<sup>2233</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Over \$1 Billion in Grants to 439 Airports in 50 States 30/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-over-1-billion-grants-439>

intended to maintain the safety and efficiency of the airports for the travelling public and is in-line with the U.S. commitment to integrating social considerations into its infrastructure investments.<sup>2234</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD500 million for the City of Long Beach as part of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).<sup>2235</sup> The aim of the funding is to help “reduce traffic congestion while enhancing the Port of Long Beach’s ability to handle large container ships to support economic growth in the region and the country,” which includes the construction of a new bridge.<sup>2236</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the DOE announced funding of USD27 million as part of the Generating Electricity Managed by Intelligent Nuclear Assets program to go towards nine projects, which will work to develop digital technology that can “reduce operations and maintenance (O&M) costs...by 10-times in order to make them more economical, flexible, and efficient.”<sup>2237</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD30 million towards R&D in “next-generation extraction, separation, and processing technologies for critical materials.”<sup>2238</sup> The aim of this R&D is to create a sustainable critical materials supply chain in the U.S., which as a country relies heavily on critical materials to fuel its technologies.<sup>2239</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the USDOT announced up to USD120.1 million in loans for the Gilcrease Expressway West Project in Oklahoma as part of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA).<sup>2240</sup> The aim of the funding is to “promote economic growth by reducing congestion for residents and travelers in the...region,” and to “provide a new and more direct route to city attractions and various points of interest.”<sup>2241</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the U.S. DOE’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy announced funding of USD67 million “to stimulate technology innovation, improve the energy productivity of

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<sup>2234</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Over \$1 Billion in Grants to 439 Airports in 50 States 30/04/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-over-1-billion-grants-439>

<sup>2235</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$500 Million Loan for Port of Long Beach 04/05/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-500-million-loan-port-long-beach>

<sup>2236</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$500 Million Loan for Port of Long Beach 04/05/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-500-million-loan-port-long-beach>

<sup>2237</sup> DOE Announces \$27 Million for Advanced Nuclear Reactor Systems Operational Technology 13/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-announces-27-million-advanced-nuclear-reactor-systems-operational-technology>

<sup>2238</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$30 Million for Innovation in Critical Materials Processing Technology 14/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-30-million-innovation-critical-materials-processing>

<sup>2239</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$30 Million for Innovation in Critical Materials Processing Technology 14/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-30-million-innovation-critical-materials-processing>

<sup>2240</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces up to a \$120.1 Million Loan for the Gilcrease Expressway West Project in Tulsa, OK 20/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-1201-million-loan-gilcrease-expressway-west>

<sup>2241</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces up to a \$120.1 Million Loan for the Gilcrease Expressway West Project in Tulsa, OK 20/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 20, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-1201-million-loan-gilcrease-expressway-west>

American manufacturing, and enable the manufacturing of cutting-edge products in the United States.”<sup>2242</sup>

On 26 May 2020, the U.S. DOE announced funding for two R&D projects worth approximately USD10 million and which aim to “competitively seek cost-shared applications for materials research, development, testing and validation to enhance the reliability of the [U.S.] existing fossil fleet and materials supply chain.”<sup>2243</sup>

On 29 May 2020, the U.S. DOE’s Office of Fossil Energy announced funding up to USD30 million for Small-Scale Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Systems and Hybrid Energy Systems projects, which aim to improve hydrogen production and power generation technologies “to a point of commercial readiness.”<sup>2244</sup> Both processes provide clean and reliable energy and align with the U.S. commitment to integrating environmental considerations in its infrastructure investments.<sup>2245</sup>

On 2 June 2020, Secretary Chao announced a final rule to establish the DOT Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program.<sup>2246</sup> This program “will provide a flexible, effective framework for the Federal government and Indian tribes (Tribes) to work collaboratively to improve transportation infrastructure delivery in Indian country.”<sup>2247</sup> The goal is to increase economic growth, quality of life, and to reduce administrative red tape in these areas.<sup>2248</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the USDOT announced nearly USD3.3 million in funding “to state, local, and tribal governments to develop and deploy innovative data tools and information to improve roadway

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<sup>2242</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$67 Million to Enhance Manufacturing Competitiveness Through Innovation 20/04/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-67-million-enhance-manufacturing-competitiveness-through>

<sup>2243</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Selects Technology Projects to Receive \$10M for Extreme Environment Materials Research 26/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/us-department-energy-selects-technology-projects-receive-10m-extreme-environment>

<sup>2244</sup> DOE to Provide \$30 Million to Develop Small-Scale Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Systems and Hybrid Energy Systems 29/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-provide-30-million-develop-small-scale-solid-oxide-fuel-cell-systems-and-hybrid-energy>

<sup>2245</sup> DOE to Provide \$30 Million to Develop Small-Scale Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Systems and Hybrid Energy Systems 29/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-provide-30-million-develop-small-scale-solid-oxide-fuel-cell-systems-and-hybrid-energy>

<sup>2246</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Historic Rule on Tribal Transportation Self Governance 02/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-historic-rule-tribal>

<sup>2247</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Historic Rule on Tribal Transportation Self Governance 02/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-historic-rule-tribal>

<sup>2248</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao Announces Historic Rule on Tribal Transportation Self Governance 02/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020.  
<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-historic-rule-tribal>

safety.”<sup>2249</sup> The goal of the funding is to help reduce roadway fatalities and to improve overall safety.<sup>2250</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the DOE announced funding of approximately USD17 million towards cost-shared carbon utilization research and development projects, which “develop and test technologies that...utilize carbon dioxide from power systems or other industrial sources as the primary feedstocks.”<sup>2251</sup> The final goal is to reduce emissions and carbon waste.<sup>2252</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>2253</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of AI regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>2254</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>2255</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD906 million of funding to be awarded to 20 projects in 20 states as part of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding American discretionary grant program.<sup>2256</sup> The funding will be used to “improve major highways, bridges, ports, and railroads across the country to better connect...communities, enhance safety, and support economic growth.”<sup>2257</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the U.S. DOE announced over USD65 million in funding for “nuclear energy research, cross-cutting technology development, facility access, and infrastructure awards,” and

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<sup>2249</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Over \$3 Million for Roadway Safety Tools 10/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-over-3-million-roadway-safety-tools-0>

<sup>2250</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Over \$3 Million for Roadway Safety Tools 10/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-over-3-million-roadway-safety-tools-0>

<sup>2251</sup> DOE Invests \$17 Million to Advance Carbon Utilization Projects 16/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-invests-17-million-advance-carbon-utilization-projects>

<sup>2252</sup> DOE Invests \$17 Million to Advance Carbon Utilization Projects 16/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-invests-17-million-advance-carbon-utilization-projects>

<sup>2253</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2254</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2255</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2256</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao announces \$906 Million Investment to Revitalize America’s Infrastructure 18/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-906-million-investment-revitalize>

<sup>2257</sup> U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao announces \$906 Million Investment to Revitalize America’s Infrastructure 18/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-906-million-investment-revitalize>

which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by ensuring reliable, clean electricity for U.S. citizens.<sup>2258</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the DOE announced funding of USD20 million towards developing “technology innovations that strengthen America’s water infrastructure and enable advanced water resource recovery systems that have the potential to be net energy positive.”<sup>2259</sup> The aim of this funding is to improve the strength, security, and reusability of the U.S. water infrastructure.<sup>2260</sup>

On 6 July 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding of nearly USD800 million in grants towards 347 airports to 46 states and is partially supported by the CARES Act.<sup>2261</sup> The grants “will be used for a variety of critical infrastructure and safety projects,” such as purchasing aircraft rescue equipment, constructing runways and taxiways, installing signage and perimeter fencing, and conducting airport master plan studies.<sup>2262</sup>

On 6 July 2020, USDOT announced funding worth USD3 million for 20 U.S. small businesses through the SBIR Program Phase I awards.<sup>2263</sup> The aim of the funding is “to spur research and commercialization of innovative transportation technologies,” improving safety and infrastructure on highways, rail, pipelines and in vehicles.<sup>2264</sup>

On 13 July 2020, the U.S. DOE announced USD11.5 million in funding for 12 projects as part of the FLExible Carbon Capture and Storage program, which aims to create “the next generation of flexible, low-cost, and low-carbon electricity systems.”<sup>2265</sup>

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<sup>2258</sup> Department of Energy Invests \$65 Million at National Laboratories and American Universities to Advance Nuclear Technology 18/05/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-invests-65-million-national-laboratories-and-american-universities>

<sup>2259</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$20 Million to Improve Water and Wastewater Treatment System Infrastructure 30/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/department-energy-announces-20-million-improve-water-and-wastewater-treatment-system>

<sup>2260</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$20 Million to Improve Water and Wastewater Treatment System Infrastructure 30/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/department-energy-announces-20-million-improve-water-and-wastewater-treatment-system>

<sup>2261</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Nearly \$800 Million in Grants to 347 Airports in 46 States and 4 Territories 06/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-nearly-800-million-grants-347>

<sup>2262</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Nearly \$800 Million in Grants to 347 Airports in 46 States and 4 Territories 06/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-nearly-800-million-grants-347>

<sup>2263</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$3 Million for Small Business Innovators 06/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-3-million-small-business-innovators>

<sup>2264</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$3 Million for Small Business Innovators 06/06/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-3-million-small-business-innovators>

<sup>2265</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces \$11.5 Million funding for FLExible Carbon Capture and Storage (FLECCS) program 13/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-115-million-funding-flexible-carbon-capture-and-storage>

On 14 July 2020, the U.S. DOE announced nearly USD53.4 million in funding for 49 SBIR and Small Business Technology Transfer R&D projects across 23 states.<sup>2266</sup> These projects focus primarily on energy innovation in various sectors, including bioenergy, fuel cells, geothermal, solar, vehicle, water and wind.<sup>2267</sup> The aim is to lower costs and increase commercialization of alternative energy sources.<sup>2268</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the DOE announced USD139 million in federal funding for 55 projects “that will support new and innovative advanced vehicle technologies,” including advanced batteries electrification and energy-efficient manufacturing.<sup>2269</sup> The aim of the project is to “expand access to affordable mobility and provide consumers with a wide range of transportation options to meet their needs.”<sup>2270</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the DOE announced approximately USD64 million in funding for 18 projects “that will support the H2@Scale vision for affordable hydrogen production, storage, distribution, and use.”<sup>2271</sup> The aim of these projects is to work towards integrating hydrogen as a resilient, flexible, and affordable energy system across the U.S.<sup>2272</sup>

On 21 July 2020, the USDOT announced USD851.15 million in funding through the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing program for the Train Control Implementation and Rehabilitation Project in New England.<sup>2273</sup> The funding will help the railway improve safety across its network, including expansion of fiber optic cable network, the installation of Automatic Train

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<sup>2266</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces Nearly \$53.4 Million in Small Business Research and Development 14/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-nearly-534-million-small-business-research-and>

<sup>2267</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces Nearly \$53.4 Million in Small Business Research and Development 14/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-nearly-534-million-small-business-research-and>

<sup>2268</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Announces Nearly \$53.4 Million in Small Business Research and Development 14/06/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/articles/us-department-energy-announces-nearly-534-million-small-business-research-and>

<sup>2269</sup> DOE Announces \$139 Million in Funding for 55 Projects to Advance Innovative Vehicle Technologies 16/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/articles/doe-announces-139-million-funding-55-projects-advance-innovative-vehicle>

<sup>2270</sup> DOE Announces \$139 Million in Funding for 55 Projects to Advance Innovative Vehicle Technologies 16/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/eere/amo/articles/doe-announces-139-million-funding-55-projects-advance-innovative-vehicle>

<sup>2271</sup> Energy Department Announces Approximately \$64M in Funding for 18 Projects to Advance H2@Scale 20/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-approximately-64m-funding-18-projects-advance-h2scale>

<sup>2272</sup> Energy Department Announces Approximately \$64M in Funding for 18 Projects to Advance H2@Scale 20/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/energy-department-announces-approximately-64m-funding-18-projects-advance-h2scale>

<sup>2273</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces USD851.15 Million Loan for the Train control Implementation and Rehabilitation Project in New England 21/07/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-85115-million-loan-train-control>



Control system, and other infrastructure necessary for compliance with the Positive Train Control standards.<sup>2274</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the U.S. DOE announced funding of USD100 million over five years for two new awards, with the aim to advance artificial photosynthesis for the production of new fuels from sunlight.<sup>2275</sup> The goal of the funding is to “keep America at the forefront of artificial photosynthesis research, a field of great challenge but also huge promise.”<sup>2276</sup>

On 28 July 2020, Secretary Chao announced funding worth USD273 million in safety and infrastructure grants to 184 airports across the country through the FAA.<sup>2277</sup> The grants are intended to “strengthen safety, improve travel, generate jobs, and benefit local communities.”<sup>2278</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the DOE announced funding up to USD28 million for five geothermal energy projects, which aim to “unlock the full potential of geothermal power as a clean, reliable, and affordable energy source for American homes and businesses.”<sup>2279</sup>

On 30 July 2020, the DOE announced funding of USD2 million for two projects that “aim to economically increase the beneficial use and management of coal combustion residuals, reducing the volume needed to be disposed of in impoundments while protecting the environment and the health and safety of the public.”<sup>2280</sup> The funding is a part of the Research for Innovative reduction Technologies Related to Coal Combustion Residuals.<sup>2281</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the USDOT announced funding worth USD4.925 million towards the development of four University Transportation Centers (UTCs) “to advance research and education

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<sup>2274</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces USD851.15 Million Loan for the Train control Implementation and Rehabilitation Project in New England 21/07/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 23, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-85115-million-loan-train-control>

<sup>2275</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$100 Million for Artificial Photosynthesis Research 29/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-100-million-artificial-photosynthesis-research>

<sup>2276</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$100 Million for Artificial Photosynthesis Research 29/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-100-million-artificial-photosynthesis-research>

<sup>2277</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Over \$273 Million in Grants to 184 Airports in 41 States, 6 Territories 28/07/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-over-273-million-grants-184>

<sup>2278</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces Over \$273 Million in Grants to 184 Airports in 41 States, 6 Territories 28/07/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-over-273-million-grants-184>

<sup>2279</sup> Department of Energy Selects 5 Projects to Receive up to \$28 Million for Geothermal Energy Research 29/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-selects-5-projects-receive-28-million-geothermal-energy-research>

<sup>2280</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Invests \$2 Million to Find Beneficial Uses for Coal Combustion Residuals 30/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/us-department-energy-invests-2-million-find-beneficial-uses-coal-combustion-residuals>

<sup>2281</sup> U.S. Department of Energy Invests \$2 Million to Find Beneficial Uses for Coal Combustion Residuals 30/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/fe/articles/us-department-energy-invests-2-million-find-beneficial-uses-coal-combustion-residuals>

programs that address critical transportation challenges” and are intended to increase accessibility in the U.S.<sup>2282</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the U.S. DOE announced funding of USD97 million towards 33 projects that “will improve the performance and lower the costs and risk of technologies that can be used to produce biofuels, biopower, and bioproducts from biomass and waste resources.”<sup>2283</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the DOE announced USD33 million in funding for 10 projects through the REPAIR program “to rehabilitate existing cast iron and bare steel pipes by creating new, robots pipes inside of the old ones.”<sup>2284</sup> The aim of the funding is to safely modernize natural gas infrastructure at low cost and to extend the life of the new pipes by a minimum of 50 years.<sup>2285</sup>

On 11 August 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD464 million in funding through the FTA “to improve the safety and reliability of America’s bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders.”<sup>2286</sup> The funding will be distributed to 96 projects across 49 states and territories and will replace, rehabilitate and purchase buses and bus-related facilities.<sup>2287</sup>

On 26 August 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD400 million in funding through the free trade agreement for four infrastructure projects in Arizona, Indiana, Missouri and New Jersey that aim to improve commuter, streetcar and light rail infrastructure.<sup>2288</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the DOE announced USD33 million in funding for 17 projects through the ASCEND program “to develop innovative, lightweight, and ultra-efficient all-electric powertrain with advanced thermal management systems that help enable efficient net-zero carbon emissions for single-aisle passenger commercial aircraft.”<sup>2289</sup> The aim of the funding is to develop cost-effective,

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<sup>2282</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Nearly \$5 Million to 4 New University Transportation Centers 31/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-nearly-5-million-4-new-university-0>

<sup>2283</sup> Department of energy Announces \$97 Million for Bioenergy Research and Development 31/07/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: July 31, 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-97-million-bioenergy-research-and-development>

<sup>2284</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$33 Million for Natural Gas Pipeline Retrofitting Projects 06/08/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-33-million-natural-gas-pipeline-retrofitting-projects>

<sup>2285</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$33 Million for Natural Gas Pipeline Retrofitting Projects 06/08/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-33-million-natural-gas-pipeline-retrofitting-projects>

<sup>2286</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$464 Million in Grant Awards Nationwide to Revitalize America’s Bus Infrastructure 11/08/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-464-million-grant-awards>

<sup>2287</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$464 Million in Grant Awards Nationwide to Revitalize America’s Bus Infrastructure 11/08/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-464-million-grant-awards>

<sup>2288</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$400 Million in Federal Funding Allocations for Four Transit Infrastructure Projects 26/08/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-400-million-federal-funding>

<sup>2289</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$33 Million in Funding for Carbon Neutral Hybrid Electric Aviation 26/08/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-33-million-funding-carbon-neutral-hybrid-electric-aviation>

innovative and high-performance solutions for decreasing energy usage and carbon emissions of aircrafts.<sup>2290</sup>

On 1 September 2020, U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced over USD1.2 billion in funding through the FAA to improve airport safety, infrastructure and to strengthen growth in local communities in 50 states and for 405 airports.<sup>2291</sup>

On 9 September 2020, Secretary Chao announced a USD13.08 million loan to the San Luis Obispo Regional Transit Authority to “provide residents...with better access to jobs, health, and other services.”<sup>2292</sup> The loan aims to assist the rural area in overcoming financial barriers to constructing a new bus maintenance facility and to improving administration and operations.<sup>2293</sup>

On 16 September 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD1 billion in funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development Transportation Discretionary Grants program to 70 infrastructure projects in 44 states.<sup>2294</sup> The aim of the funding is to support projects that will encompass safety, economic competitiveness, quality of life, sustainability and partnerships with stakeholders when improving road, bridge, transit, rail, port and intermodal transportation infrastructure.<sup>2295</sup>

On 23 September 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD320.6 million in funding through the Fiscal Year 2020 CRISI Program to 50 infrastructure projects in 29 states.<sup>2296</sup> The aim of the funding is to

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<sup>2290</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$33 Million in Funding for Carbon Neutral Hybrid Electric Aviation 26/08/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-33-million-funding-carbon-neutral-hybrid-electric-aviation>

<sup>2291</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces More Than \$1.2 Billion in Infrastructure Grants to America’s Airports 01/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-400-million-federal-funding>

<sup>2292</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$13 Million Loan for Operations and Maintenance Facility in San Luis Obispo, California 09/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-13-million-loan-operations-and-maintenance>

<sup>2293</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$13 Million Loan for Operations and Maintenance Facility in San Luis Obispo, California 09/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-department-transportation-announces-13-million-loan-operations-and-maintenance>

<sup>2294</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$1 Billion to Upgrade American Infrastructure 16/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-1-billion-upgrade-american>

<sup>2295</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$1 Billion to Upgrade American Infrastructure 16/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-secretary-transportation-elaine-l-chao-announces-1-billion-upgrade-american>

<sup>2296</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$320.6 Million for Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements 23/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-3206-million-rail-infrastructure>

support projects that will “improve the safety, efficiency, and reliability of freight and intercity passenger service.”<sup>2297</sup>

On 24 September 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD335 million in funding through the FAA to 80 airports in 25 states to “advance safety, improve travel, generate jobs and provide other economic benefits for local communities.”<sup>2298</sup>

On 25 September 2020, the DOE announced USD80 million in funding to projects “that enhance energy demand flexibility across buildings and the electric power grid.”<sup>2299</sup> The aim of the funding is to develop innovative technologies that will enhance building, materials, equipment and operations design and help to build a more resilient energy future.<sup>2300</sup>

On 25 September 2020, the U.S. met with Australia, India, and Japan for a virtual Quad meeting to discuss efforts to improve the Indo-Pacific region.<sup>2301</sup> One of the topics discussed was “quality infrastructure based upon international best practices, such as the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment.”<sup>2302</sup>

On 29 September 2020, Secretary Chao announced USD574 million in Emergency Relief funds for 39 states and Puerto Rico to repair their roads and bridges damaged by natural disasters.<sup>2303</sup> “These funds will help reimburse states for needed repairs to vital transportation infrastructure that residents rely upon for daily travel.”<sup>2304</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment as its common strategic direction and high aspiration with actions in line with five of the outlined principles: raising economic efficiency, encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, integrating environmental considerations, and building resilience against natural disasters and other risks.

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<sup>2297</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$320.6 Million for Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements 23/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-3206-million-rail-infrastructure>

<sup>2298</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$335 Million in Infrastructure Grants to America’s Airports 24/09/2020, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-335-million-infrastructure-grants>

<sup>2299</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$80 Million for Innovative Building Technologies and Practices 25/09/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-80-million-innovative-building-technologies-and-practices>

<sup>2300</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$80 Million for Innovative Building Technologies and Practices 25/09/2020, U.S. Department of Energy (Washington). Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-80-million-innovative-building-technologies-and-practices>

<sup>2301</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations (“The Quad”), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>2302</sup> U.S.-Australia-India-Japan Consultations (“The Quad”), U.S. Department of State (Washington) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/u-s-australia-india-japan-consultations-the-quad-3/>

<sup>2303</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$574 Million in Emergency Relief for Road and Bridge Repairs, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-574-million-emergency-relief-road>

<sup>2304</sup> U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao Announces \$574 Million in Emergency Relief for Road and Bridge Repairs, U.S. Department of Transportation (Washington) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/us-transportation-secretary-elaine-l-chao-announces-574-million-emergency-relief-road>

Thus, the United States has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Georgia Gibbings*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to endorse the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure.

On 4 July 2020, the European Investment Bank lent EUR125 million for infrastructure in Friuli Venezia Giulia. The allocation will be used to fund various infrastructure projects in the region such as: energy efficiency upgrading of school buildings, social infrastructure, co-generation and energy efficiency projects, renewable energy generation and improvements in the utilization of water resources. The aim of the loan is to stimulate the growth and social attractiveness of the region as well as the promotion of sustainable development in the region.<sup>2305</sup>

On 26 July 2019, the European Commission approved support for six offshore wind farms in France. The European Commission believes that these wind farms will generate aid for France in boosting its share of electricity produced by renewable resources.<sup>2306</sup>

On 31 July 2019, the European Commission approved EUR300 million of public support to deploy high-speed networks in Greece. These new broadband networks aim to benefit businesses and consumers with limited internet access in Greece gain more connectivity to participate in the modern digital economy while expanding Europe's e-infrastructure.<sup>2307</sup>

On 1 August 2019, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR385 million to windfarms in Spain. The aim of this project is to continue the EU's commitment to investing in renewable energy to advance climate change mitigation.<sup>2308</sup>

On 1 August 2019, the European Commission chose to reinvest unspent funds from the NER300 programme to support low-carbon innovative projects, the funds amassed to a support of EUR73 million. The selected infrastructure projects include: the deployment of a near-shore Oscillating Wave Surge Converter to convert wave energy into electric power, an offshore wind farm, and a Greenway electric vehicle charging network in Slovakia.<sup>2309</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the European Investment bank signed a EUR115 million loan in support of acquiring new electric buses and installing necessary infrastructure in Rotterdam. The objective is to

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<sup>2305</sup> Italy: EIB grants EUR 125m for infrastructure in Friuli Venezia Giulia, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 4 July 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-167-eib-grants-eur-125m-for-infrastructure-in-friuli-venezia-giulia>.

<sup>2306</sup> State aid: Commission approves support for six offshore wind farms in France, The European Commission (Brussels) 26 July 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_4749](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_4749).

<sup>2307</sup> State aid: Commission approves €300 million public support for the development of ultrafast broadband network in Greece, European Commission (Brussels) 31 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_4909](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_4909).

<sup>2308</sup> Climate action: EIB to finance construction of 21 wind farms in Spain, The European Commission (Brussels) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_4949](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_4949).

<sup>2309</sup> NER300 funds to support innovative projects in wave energy, offshore wind and charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, The European Commission (Brussels) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/ner300-funds-support-innovative-projects-wave-energy-offshore-wind-and-charging-infrastructure\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/ner300-funds-support-innovative-projects-wave-energy-offshore-wind-and-charging-infrastructure_en).

switch over to clean transportation infrastructure while benefiting citizens through a more modern system and cleaner air quality.<sup>2310</sup>

On 3 October 2019, the European Investment Bank released EUR400 million to the construction of two metro lines and a fleet of metro cars in Bhopal. This project aims to improve the business climate of Bhopal through low-carbon and climate resilient infrastructure. The two main objectives are: 1) tackle climate change mitigation by shifting from cars to trains; and 2) improve the social and economic infrastructure while contributing to urban development.<sup>2311</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the European Investment Bank lent EUR12.5 million to Viesuju Investiciju Pletros Agentura to finance energy-efficient modernization projects in Lithuania. The project will focus on climate change while also generating cohesion benefits through various investment projects. Some projects include, but are not limited to, installing solar panels on family homes and an energy efficient investment industrial companies with the benefit of lowering carbon dioxide levels as well as energy bills for consumers.<sup>2312</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the European Commission approved EUR2.6 billion of public support to deploy high-speed networks in Ireland. These new broadband networks aim to benefit businesses and consumers with limited internet access in Ireland gain more connectivity to participate in the modern digital economy and expand Europe's e-infrastructure.<sup>2313</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the European Commission approved a German scheme for the integration of broadband networks in Bavaria. These new broadband networks aim to benefit businesses and consumers with limited internet access in Bavaria gain more connectivity to participate in the modern digital economy while expanding Europe's e-infrastructure.<sup>2314</sup>

On 5 December 2019, the European Union initiated EUR297 million in strengthening local communities in Jordan and Lebanon. The funding includes support for physical infrastructure developments such as improving public water and wastewater services and establishing a solid waste management system.<sup>2315</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the European Commission approved EUR400 million of public support to deploy high-speed networks in Spain. These new broadband networks aim to benefit businesses and

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<sup>2310</sup> Juncker Plan and Connecting Europe Facility provide financing for electric buses in Rotterdam, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_5952](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_5952).

<sup>2311</sup> Bhopal Metro Rail Project, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/pipelines/all/20170403>.

<sup>2312</sup> EU support for first energy efficiency investment platform in Lithuania, European Commission (Brussels) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6066](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6066).

<sup>2313</sup> State aid: Commission approves €2.6 billion public support for the Irish National Broadband Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6291](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6291).

<sup>2314</sup> State aid: Commission approves German scheme for very high capacity broadband networks in Bavaria, European Commission (Brussels) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6630](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6630).

<sup>2315</sup> The EU adopted €297 million in concrete actions for refugees and local communities in Jordan and Lebanon, European Commission (Brussels) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6659](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6659).

consumers with limited internet access in Spain gain more connectivity to participate in the modern digital economy.<sup>2316</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR26 million for the Solar Storm 200 project in Spain. The project will support a conversion to renewable energy through the building of photovoltaic plants while providing 400 jobs in the implementation phase.<sup>2317</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European Union initiated EUR30 million for the project “Africa Connect.” The project aims to provide high-capacity internet access for research and education networks across Africa. This investment into the e-infrastructure of Africa has the objective of further supporting the development of skills while improving the employability of young people.<sup>2318</sup>

On 20 December 2019, the European Investment Bank provided a EUR39 million loan to develop the Port of Trieste. The project will promote increased accessibility to the manufacturing and industrial areas of north-east Italy and various other central European destinations. The implementation of the work is aimed to create over 400 jobs while ensuring strong environmental credentials.<sup>2319</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the European Commissions initiated EUR27.5 million to Grupo Ruiz to add more modern and less polluting buses to its fleet. The agreement will improve public transport quality in Madrid, Majorca, Badajoz, Toledo, Salamanca and Murcia while cutting the amount of polluting emissions.<sup>2320</sup>

On 31 January 2020, the European Investment Bank invested EUR200 million for the construction of two new lines of a city metro rail in Pune, India. The aim of the new rail is to encourage accessibility around the city while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions to improve the overall air quality.<sup>2321</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the EU supported EUR34 million to fund three innovative projects for clean transport in Germany and Italy which is to a total of EUR370 million. The projects include: the development of electric charging infrastructure in Italy, electrifying Hamburg’s urban public

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<sup>2316</sup> State aid: Commission approves €400 million of public support for very high-speed networks in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6719](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6719).

<sup>2317</sup> COP25: Support for renewable energy: EIB and IM2 Energía Solar join forces to create platform for building and operating photovoltaic power plants in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6718](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6718).

<sup>2318</sup> Africa-Europe Alliance: EU boosts pan-African Internet connectivity with €30 million, European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6789](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6789).

<sup>2319</sup> Italy: EU provides EUR 45m to develop Port of Trieste, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-377-eu-provides-eur-45m-to-develop-port-of-trieste>.

<sup>2320</sup> Climate action: EIB provides financing to Grupo Ruiz to renew its fleet with more modern and less polluting buses, European Commission (Brussels) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_14](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_14).

<sup>2321</sup> India: Safer, eco-friendlier and faster commuting in Pune as the EIB supports the city metro rail with EUR 600 million, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-033-safer-eco-friendlier-and-faster-commuting-in-pune-as-the-eib-supports-the-city-metro-rail-with-eur-600-million>.

transport fleet, purchasing 155 e-buses to substitute old diesel buses in Hamburg and building charging infrastructure.<sup>2322</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the European Investment Bank lent EUR240 million to Gasunie for the construction of a nitrogen facility in Zuidbroek, near Groningen. Due to the earthquakes caused by the extraction of natural gas from the Groningen gas field, the Dutch government has sought to resolve these complications through investing in a nitrogen facility infrastructure project.<sup>2323</sup>

On 10 March 2020, the European Investment Bank lent EUR60 million for a wind farm project in Poland. The aim of the project is to decarbonize the energy sector in Poland and improve the energy mix.<sup>2324</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the European Commission released EUR980 million in funding for clean energy infrastructure. There will be a call for proposals made available until 27 May 2020. Successful proposals must have a project that aims to have a significant impact on at least two EU countries while increasing competitiveness and enhancing the EU's ability to participate in sustainable development.<sup>2325</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the European Commission approved an investment package worth more than EUR1.4 billion of EU funds in 14 large infrastructure projects in seven member states. Improving Croatia's electric rail network, increasing energy security and renewable energy sources in Croatia, increasing flood safety and improving sustainable water management in Hungary, and reducing traffic and pollution through transport services in Poland are just some of the infrastructure projects cited.<sup>2326</sup>

On 3 June 2020, the European Commission approved EUR70 million in loans to support an Estonian broadband network with Eesti Energia.<sup>2327</sup> These new broadband networks will provide over a quarter of a million households with broadband connectivity, which includes improving access in almost 50,000 households who currently have insufficient connectivity.<sup>2328</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the European Regional Development Fund initiated EUR28 million to go towards renovating public lighting in Guadeloupe.<sup>2329</sup> The project is financed with the aim of lowering the cost of the lighting as well as decreasing its carbon footprint.<sup>2330</sup>

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<sup>2322</sup> Innovative projects in transport sector to benefit from NER 300 funds, The European Commission (Brussels) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/innovative-projects-transport-sector-benefit-ner-300-funds\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/innovative-projects-transport-sector-benefit-ner-300-funds_en).

<sup>2323</sup> Netherlands: EIB supports energy security, The European Commission (Brussels) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-083-eib-supports-energy-security-in-the-netherlands>.

<sup>2324</sup> Ignitis Group borrows €60m from EIB for its first wind farm project in Poland, The European Commission (Brussels) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_430](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_430).

<sup>2325</sup> Energy Union: €980 million in EU funding available for clean energy infrastructure, The European Commission (Brussels) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/energy-union-eu980-million-eu-funding-available-clean-energy-infrastructure-2020-mar-13\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/energy-union-eu980-million-eu-funding-available-clean-energy-infrastructure-2020-mar-13_en).

<sup>2326</sup> EU Cohesion Policy invests over €1.4 billion in green projects in 7 Member States, The European Commission (Brussels) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_462](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_462).

<sup>2327</sup> EB Supports Estonia broadband with Eesti Energia, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-135-eib-supports-estonian-broadband-with-eesti-energia>

<sup>2328</sup> EB Supports Estonia broadband with Eesti Energia, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-135-eib-supports-estonian-broadband-with-eesti-energia>

<sup>2329</sup> Street Lighting renovated in Guadeloupe thanks to ERDF, The European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-04-2020-street-lighting-renovated-in-guadeloupe-thanks-to-erdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-04-2020-street-lighting-renovated-in-guadeloupe-thanks-to-erdf)



On 5 June 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR450 million to co-finance an offshore wind farm in Fécamp, France. The EU bank has recognized that this is the first project financed in France that reflects the objectives set out in November 2019 that aim to consider the climate in investments.<sup>2331</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated a CZK2 billion loan that will go towards improving infrastructure in Pardubice, including improvements to transport and energy efficiency in public buildings.<sup>2332</sup>

On 11 June 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR7.5 billion for a COVID-19 response, including an investment in clean transport and energy.<sup>2333</sup> The aim of the EUR1.5 billion allocated to clean transport is to improve air quality while creating sustainable transport.<sup>2334</sup> Financing will also be directed towards increasing the use of renewable energy in France.<sup>2335</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the European Regional Development Fund provided funding for a bicycle infrastructure project that will offer a more active way to explore an area of Northern Netherlands, near the border of Germany.<sup>2336</sup> The bicycle route was co-created by local businesses and residents, while also keeping tourists in mind.<sup>2337</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the European Regional Development Fund initiated a project that will repair a bicycle highway in the Belgian region of Flanders so that residents are able to enjoy commuting by bike while limiting CO2 emissions.<sup>2338</sup>

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<sup>2330</sup> Street Lighting renovated in Guadeloupe thanks to ERDF, The European Commission (Brussels) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-04-2020-street-lighting-renovated-in-guadeloupe-thanks-to-erdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-04-2020-street-lighting-renovated-in-guadeloupe-thanks-to-erdf)

<sup>2331</sup> France: Investment Plan - EIB co-finances the construction of an offshore wind farm in Fécamp for €450 million, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-138-plan-d-investissement-la-bei-cofinance-la-construction-du-parc-eolien-en-mer-de-fecamp-a-hauteur-de-450-millions-d-euros>

<sup>2332</sup> Czech Republic: Pardubice Region gets EIB support for infrastructure upgrade, including hospitals, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-139-czech-republic-pardubice-region-gets-eib-support-for-infrastructure-upgrade-including-hospitals>

<sup>2333</sup> EIB approves € 7.5 billion for COVID-19 response and investment in health, private sector, clean transport, education and energy, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-146-eib-approves-eur-7-5-billion-for-covid-19-response-and-investment-in-health-private-sector-clean-transport-education-and-energy>

<sup>2334</sup> EIB approves € 7.5 billion for COVID-19 response and investment in health, private sector, clean transport, education and energy, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-146-eib-approves-eur-7-5-billion-for-covid-19-response-and-investment-in-health-private-sector-clean-transport-education-and-energy>

<sup>2335</sup> EIB approves € 7.5 billion for COVID-19 response and investment in health, private sector, clean transport, education and energy, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-146-eib-approves-eur-7-5-billion-for-covid-19-response-and-investment-in-health-private-sector-clean-transport-education-and-energy>

<sup>2336</sup> Cyclists to enjoy Wadden Sea coast via new bike route, The European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-12-2020-cyclists-to-enjoy-wadden-sea-coast-via-new-bike-route](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-12-2020-cyclists-to-enjoy-wadden-sea-coast-via-new-bike-route)

<sup>2337</sup> Cyclists to enjoy Wadden Sea coast via new bike route, The European Commission (Brussels) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-12-2020-cyclists-to-enjoy-wadden-sea-coast-via-new-bike-route](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/06-12-2020-cyclists-to-enjoy-wadden-sea-coast-via-new-bike-route)

<sup>2338</sup> Flanders gets to the root of bicycle highway repairs, The European Commission (Brussels) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/17-06-2020-flanders-gets-to-the-root-of-bicycle-highway-repairs](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/06/17-06-2020-flanders-gets-to-the-root-of-bicycle-highway-repairs)

On 17 June 2020, the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched, an international initiative created by France and Canada along with Australia, the EU, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Korea, Singapore, Slovenia, the UK and the US.<sup>2339</sup> GPAI aims to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence (AI) regarding human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation and economic growth.<sup>2340</sup> Their work will focus on responsible use of AI, data governance, the future of work and innovation and commercialization; strengthening infrastructure governance and stimulating the economy.<sup>2341</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR43.5 million to finance a solar project in Andalusia, Spain.<sup>2342</sup> The aim of the project is to provide clean energy and reduce CO2 emissions, thus contributing to Spain's green recovery.<sup>2343</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR450 million loan in support of energy renewables projects across Italy, including a combined-cycle gas turbine in Venice.<sup>2344</sup> This investment falls in line with the EIB's new Energy Lending Policy which aims to promote investments that are working towards combating climate change.<sup>2345</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the European Investment Bank initiated EUR800 million to boost a green recovery in Spain.<sup>2346</sup> The allocated funds will go towards photovoltaic plants and wind power farms in several regions.<sup>2347</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the European Commission approved EUR50 million of financing to modernize the rail line between Lisbon and Cascais.<sup>2348</sup> The funding will go towards installing new electric infrastructure, signalling and control systems with the aim to make the train system journeys safer and more energy efficient.<sup>2349</sup>

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<sup>2339</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2340</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2341</sup> Launch of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, Government of France (Paris) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/launch-of-the-global-partnership-on-artificial-intelligence>

<sup>2342</sup> Green recovery: EIB finances the largest solar project in Andalusia, Spain, The European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1207](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1207)

<sup>2343</sup> Green recovery: EIB finances the largest solar project in Andalusia, Spain, The European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1207](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1207)

<sup>2344</sup> Italy: EIB supports Edison's investments in sustainability, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-175-italy-eib-supports-edison-s-investments-in-sustainability>

<sup>2345</sup> Italy: EIB supports Edison's investments in sustainability, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-175-italy-eib-supports-edison-s-investments-in-sustainability>

<sup>2346</sup> Iberdrola receives €800 million in financing from EIB and ICO to boost the green recovery in Spain, Reve (Madrid) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.evwind.es/2020/07/09/iberdrola-receives-e800-million-in-financing-from-eib-and-ico-to-boost-the-green-recovery-in-spain/75697>

<sup>2347</sup> Iberdrola receives €800 million in financing from EIB and ICO to boost the green recovery in Spain, Reve (Madrid) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.evwind.es/2020/07/09/iberdrola-receives-e800-million-in-financing-from-eib-and-ico-to-boost-the-green-recovery-in-spain/75697>

<sup>2348</sup> Cohesion policy: Portugal's important suburban train line modernised, The European Commission (Brussels) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 9 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/07/07-09-2020-cohesion-policy-portugal-s-important-suburban-train-line-modernised](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/07/07-09-2020-cohesion-policy-portugal-s-important-suburban-train-line-modernised)

<sup>2349</sup> Cohesion policy: Portugal's important suburban train line modernised, The European Commission (Brussels) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 9 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/07/07-09-2020-cohesion-policy-portugal-s-important-suburban-train-line-modernised](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/07/07-09-2020-cohesion-policy-portugal-s-important-suburban-train-line-modernised)

On 16 July 2020, the EU announced that it will invest EUR2.2 billion in 140 key transportation infrastructure projects to support each Member State's economic recovery.<sup>2350</sup> This budget aims to incorporate climate initiatives laid out in the European Green New Deal.<sup>2351</sup> Emphasis of the budget is placed on ensuring cross-border connectivity, the shift to greener fuels for transportation, and the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure.<sup>2352</sup>

On 30 July 2020, the European Investment Bank provided EUR35 million to Endesa to install 8,500 EV charging points in Spain.<sup>2353</sup> The aim of this infrastructure investment is to promote electric mobility in Spain.<sup>2354</sup>

On 3 August 2020, the European Investment Bank provided EUR95 million to finance 40 climate action projects in Barcelona.<sup>2355</sup> The projects all aim to address and support climate change and mitigation in the city through the development of social and energy efficient infrastructure.<sup>2356</sup> They will also bear in mind social inclusion and job creation to boost Barcelona's post pandemic recovery.<sup>2357</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the European Investment Bank lent EUR150 million to a Dutch water utility company, Vitens, to "future proof" the water distribution network as part of a strategy to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate.<sup>2358</sup> The aim of the increasing water reserves is so that they can serve as a safety supply to extreme weather events.<sup>2359</sup>

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<sup>2350</sup> Boosting the EU's Green Recovery: EU invests over €2 billion in 140 key transport projects to jump-start the economy, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1336)

<sup>2351</sup> Boosting the EU's Green Recovery: EU invests over €2 billion in 140 key transport projects to jump-start the economy, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1336)

<sup>2352</sup> Boosting the EU's Green Recovery: EU invests over €2 billion in 140 key transport projects to jump-start the economy, European Commission (Brussels) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1336](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1336)

<sup>2353</sup> EIB provides €35 million to Endesa to install 8,500 EV charging points in Spain, PetrolPlaza (N/A) 30 July 2020.

Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.petrolplaza.com/news/25233>

<sup>2354</sup> EIB provides €35 million to Endesa to install 8,500 EV charging points in Spain, PetrolPlaza (N/A) 30 July 2020.

Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.petrolplaza.com/news/25233>

<sup>2355</sup> Spain: EIB to provide €95 million to finance 40 climate action projects in Barcelona, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-215-eib-to-provide-eur95-million-to-finance-40-climate-action-projects-in-barcelona>

<sup>2356</sup> Spain: EIB to provide €95 million to finance 40 climate action projects in Barcelona, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-215-eib-to-provide-eur95-million-to-finance-40-climate-action-projects-in-barcelona>

<sup>2357</sup> Spain: EIB to provide €95 million to finance 40 climate action projects in Barcelona, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-215-eib-to-provide-eur95-million-to-finance-40-climate-action-projects-in-barcelona>

<sup>2358</sup> Netherlands: EIB supports Vitens in future-proofing its high-quality water network, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-217-eib-supports-vitens-in-future-proofing-its-high-quality-water-network>

<sup>2359</sup> Netherlands: EIB supports Vitens in future-proofing its high-quality water network, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-217-eib-supports-vitens-in-future-proofing-its-high-quality-water-network>

On 28 August 2020, the European Commission approved EUR234 million to upgrade about 117km of the Skawina-Zakopane railway line in Southern Poland.<sup>2360</sup> The project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to provide easier access to people with reduced mobility.<sup>2361</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the European Investment Bank invested EUR650 million into the Kanpur City Rail in India.<sup>2362</sup> The aim of this investment is to provide green, safe, fast and affordable public transport to the people of Kanpur.<sup>2363</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the European Investment Bank and UniCredit Bank Austria provided a total funding of EUR107.4 million to finance the development of Austria's largest wind farms.<sup>2364</sup> The aim of this investment is to promote clean energy to reach the goals of the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050.<sup>2365</sup> The wind farm will have capacity of 143 MW, providing around 90,000 households with electricity produced from renewable energy sources.<sup>2366</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the European Investment Bank provided EUR264 million to aid in the construction of a 31 km section of the A49 motorway.<sup>2367</sup> It is stated that this contribution will help in providing an efficient network for electric-fueled vehicles, resulting in the reduction of carbon emissions.<sup>2368</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the European Commission approved an investment of EUR80 million to build a tunnel and two viaducts as part of a wider plan to create a second additional railway track in Slovenia between the port of Koper and the village of Divača.<sup>2369</sup> This project aims to benefit

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<sup>2360</sup> Cohesion Policy invests in sustainable transport in Poland, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/08/28-08-2020-cohesion-policy-invests-in-sustainable-transport-in-poland](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/08/28-08-2020-cohesion-policy-invests-in-sustainable-transport-in-poland)

<sup>2361</sup> Cohesion Policy invests in sustainable transport in Poland, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/08/28-08-2020-cohesion-policy-invests-in-sustainable-transport-in-poland](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/08/28-08-2020-cohesion-policy-invests-in-sustainable-transport-in-poland)

<sup>2362</sup> India: Green, safe and affordable public transport for Kanpur as EIB invests €650 million into city metro rail, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-230-green-safe-and-affordable-public-transport-for-kanpur-as-eib-invests-eur650-million-into-city-metro-rail>

<sup>2363</sup> India: Green, safe and affordable public transport for Kanpur as EIB invests €650 million into city metro rail, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-230-green-safe-and-affordable-public-transport-for-kanpur-as-eib-invests-eur650-million-into-city-metro-rail>

<sup>2364</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

<sup>2365</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

<sup>2366</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

<sup>2367</sup> Germany: EIB support for construction of A49 motorway, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/germany-eib-support-for-construction-of-a49-motorway>

<sup>2368</sup> Germany: EIB support for construction of A49 motorway, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/germany-eib-support-for-construction-of-a49-motorway>

<sup>2369</sup> EU Cohesion policy invests in clean transport in Slovenia, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/09/09-08-2020-eu-cohesion-policy-invests-in-clean-transport-in-slovenia](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/09/09-08-2020-eu-cohesion-policy-invests-in-clean-transport-in-slovenia)

Slovenian connectivity, strengthen Slovenia's internal market to lead to greater economic and social cohesion, and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>2370</sup>

On 10 September 2020, the European Investment Bank provided EUR100 million to the Valencia area in Spain for reconstruction and preventive works after extreme weather damages.<sup>2371</sup> The funding will promote preventive measures to improve the region's climate resilience in an attempt to provide a better response to future weather events.<sup>2372</sup>

On 15 September 2020, the European Investment Bank gave a EUR20 million loan to two city housing companies in Poland for the construction of affordable housing units.<sup>2373</sup> This project includes a specific focus on green infrastructure and includes a separate EUR0.8 million loan to finance the integration of green roofs, urban farming plots, rainwater collection systems and other green elements.<sup>2374</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the European Investment Bank allocated EUR12.6 billion in financing for transport, clean energy, urban development, and COVID-19 resistance.<sup>2375</sup> Specifically, this investment includes EUR2.9 billion to improve urban and national sustainable transport, as well as financing to modernize electricity networks and large-scale social housing investments.<sup>2376</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the EU agreed on a Commission proposal to invest EUR998 million in key European energy infrastructure projects under the Connecting Europe Facility.<sup>2377</sup> EUR720 million will be investment in the Baltic Synchronisation Project to improve integration of the electricity markets in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.<sup>2378</sup> The other funds will go to a smart electricity

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<sup>2370</sup> EU Cohesion policy invests in clean transport in Slovenia, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/09/09-08-2020-eu-cohesion-policy-invests-in-clean-transport-in-slovenia](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/newsroom/news/2020/09/09-08-2020-eu-cohesion-policy-invests-in-clean-transport-in-slovenia)

<sup>2371</sup> Spain: EIB provides €100 million to Valencia Region for reconstruction and preventive works after extreme weather damage, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-236-el-bei-facilita-100-millones-de-euros-a-la-comunidad-valenciana-para-la-reconstruccion-y-prevencion-de-danos-provocados-por-las-dana>

<sup>2372</sup> Spain: EIB provides €100 million to Valencia Region for reconstruction and preventive works after extreme weather damage, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-236-el-bei-facilita-100-millones-de-euros-a-la-comunidad-valenciana-para-la-reconstruccion-y-prevencion-de-danos-provocados-por-las-dana>

<sup>2373</sup> Poland: Investment Plan for Europe - EIB supports affordable housing in the city of Szczecin, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-239-investment-plan-for-europe-poland-eib-supports-affordable-housing-in-the-city-of-szczecin>

<sup>2374</sup> Poland: Investment Plan for Europe - EIB supports affordable housing in the city of Szczecin, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-239-investment-plan-for-europe-poland-eib-supports-affordable-housing-in-the-city-of-szczecin>

<sup>2375</sup> EIB approves € 12.6 billion financing for transport, clean energy, urban development and COVID-19 resilience, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-242-eib-approves-eur-12-6-billion-financing-for-transport-clean-energy-urban-development-and-covid-19-resilience>

<sup>2376</sup> EIB approves € 12.6 billion financing for transport, clean energy, urban development and COVID-19 resilience, European Investment Bank (Brussels) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2020-242-eib-approves-eur-12-6-billion-financing-for-transport-clean-energy-urban-development-and-covid-19-resilience>

<sup>2377</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly €1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1803](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1803)

<sup>2378</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly €1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1803](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1803)

grid linking Hungary and Slovakia, a CO2 transport project for Belgian and Dutch ports, a Bulgaria-Serbia interconnector to improve security of supply and diversification of gas imports in Southeast Europe, and a study to support the North Sea Wind Power Hub.<sup>2379</sup> These projects will contribute to delivering the European Green Deal and meeting the 2030 climate targets.<sup>2380</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment by acting in four of the six commitment areas, such as encouraging sustainable growth and development, integrating social considerations, integrating environmental considerations into infrastructure projects, and building resilience against natural disasters and other risks.

Thus, the European Union has received a received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Isabel Davis*

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<sup>2379</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly €1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1803](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1803)

<sup>2380</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly €1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1803](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1803)

## 6. Digital Economy: Frameworks

“We will cooperate to encourage the interoperability of different frameworks [for data free flow with trust]”

*G20 Leaders’ Osaka Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.70 (85%)	

### Background

Digitalization is a relatively new addition to the G20 agenda. G20’s initiatives address the most general issues of digital growth. In 2015, G20 members approved national adjusted growth strategies; several of them, including Germany’s, indicated “investing in research ... and expanding the ‘High Tech Strategy’” as a key long-term task.<sup>2381</sup> Approving adjusted growth strategies focused on the wide use of digital technologies in various spheres was the first step towards more specific initiatives and commitments. At Antalya, G20 leaders committed to “bridge the digital divide” and also noted that “states have a special responsibility to promote security, stability, and economic ties with other nations” in information communications and technology (ICT).<sup>2382</sup>

At Hangzhou in 2016, in the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth, for the first time G20 leaders addressed the issue of proliferation of the digital economy, which they defined the digital economy as “a broad range of economic activities that includes using digitized information and knowledge as the key factor of production, modern information networks as the important activity space, and the

<sup>2381</sup> Adjusted Growth Strategy: Germany. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/Adjusted-Growth-Strategy-2015-Germany.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2382</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

effective use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as an important driver for efficiency-enhancing and economic structural optimization.”<sup>2383</sup> The leaders pledged to “offer policy support for an open, and secure ICT environment, including recognizing the key role of adequate and effective protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights to the development of the digital economy” by means of “cultivating transparent digital economy policy-making” and “supporting the development and use of international standards.”<sup>2384</sup> To facilitate “the G20 agenda on innovation, new industrial revolution and digital economy,” G20 leaders decided to establish a designated task force supported by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).<sup>2385</sup>

At Hamburg in 2017, the G20 addressed the issue of digital skills promotion. The #eSkills4Girls Initiative touched on the issue within broader context of development and gender policy.<sup>2386</sup> To facilitate implementing commitments on digital growth, the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) was established following the decision made in Hangzhou in 2016.<sup>2387</sup> The leaders concluded with commitments aimed at harnessing digitalization and digital growth such as a pledge to promote digital literacy and digital skills, ensure effective competition to foster investment and innovation, promote effective cooperation of all stakeholders and encourage the development and use of market- and industry-led international standards for digitized production, products and services.<sup>2388</sup>

During Argentina’s G20 presidency in 2018, the DETF presented political tools for digital growth including the G20 Digital Governance Principles, recommendation for measuring the digital economy, gender equality in digital sphere and digital infrastructure development.<sup>2389</sup> At Buenos Aires, the G20 leaders pledged to “promote measures to boost micro, small and medium enterprises and entrepreneurs, bridge the digital gender divide and further digital inclusion, support consumer protection, and improve digital government, digital infrastructure and measurement of the digital economy.”<sup>2390</sup>

Japan’s G20 presidency in 2019 greatly expanded the G20 digital agenda. In Osaka, the G20 leaders presented the Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), which tackled cyber security.<sup>2391</sup> In addition, the Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy was adopted in which most G20 members (with exception of India,

<sup>2383</sup> G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Blueprint%20on%20Innovative%20Growth.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2384</sup> G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Blueprint%20on%20Innovative%20Growth.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2385</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Hangzhou Summit September 5, 2016. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Leaders%E2%80%99%20Communique%20Hangzhou%20Summit.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2386</sup> G20 Initiative “#eSkills4Girls”. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/2017-g20-initiative-eskills4girls-en.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2387</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Hangzhou Summit September 5, 2016. URL: <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Leaders%E2%80%99%20Communique%20Hangzhou%20Summit.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2388</sup> G20 Leaders' Hamburg Declaration. URL: [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders\\_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders_%20communiqu%C3%A9.pdf) (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2389</sup> G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration. URL: <https://g20digitalrepo.org/G20%20DETF%20Ministerial%20Declaration%20Salta.pdf> (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2390</sup> G20 Leaders' declaration. URL: [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos\\_aires\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf) (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2391</sup> G20 Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT). URL: [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News\\_ciir/Project/G20\\_new\\_downloadings/G20\\_OSAKA\\_LEADERS\\_STATEMENT\\_ON\\_PREVENTING\\_EXPLOITATION\\_OF\\_THE\\_INTERNET\\_FOR\\_TERRORISM.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/G20_OSAKA_LEADERS_STATEMENT_ON_PREVENTING_EXPLOITATION_OF_THE_INTERNET_FOR_TERRORISM.pdf) (accessed: 22 December 2019)



South Africa and Indonesia) declared the launch of the “Osaka track” to promote discussions on “trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the WTO.”<sup>2392</sup>

### Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to facilitate interoperability — the degree to which two products, programs, etc., can be used together, or the quality of being able to be used together<sup>2393</sup> — of different legal frameworks, both domestic and international, to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, facilitate data free flow and strengthen consumer and business trust.<sup>2394</sup> The “framework” in this context refers to a general definition of the term implying “a system of rules, ideas, or beliefs that is used to plan or decide something”<sup>2395</sup>

Thus, to achieve full compliance, a G20 member should take actions to improve its own legal framework and contribute to the development of international legal frameworks that regulate digital economy-related issues. “National” refers to changes in a member’s legislation that are aimed at digital growth, data free flow facilitation or strengthened consumer and business trust. “International” refers to actions taken by a G20 member, or a group of countries including a G20 member, in the form of a proposed initiative to an international or regional organization to tackle issues relating to digital growth, data free flow and trust building, e.g., relevant organizations in the United Nations system, the OECD or the World Trade Organization.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not improve the interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks
0	The G20 member takes actions to improve the interoperability of different digital frameworks, but these actions are either national OR international.
+1	G20 member improves the interoperability of different digital frameworks both nationally and internationally.

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### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 10 September 2019, the Ministry of Health and Social Development issued Resolution 2524/2019 which approved the Guide for the Unambiguous Identification of Persons in Health. The Secretary of Government also proposes to start, together with the jurisdictions, the path towards a health system that has technologies that facilitate the registration of the information in primary form, during the contact with the patient, in interoperable systems that allow information to be shared between levels of care and jurisdictions, building for each patient a national, longitudinal and complete medical history of clinical, statistical and management utility.<sup>2396</sup>

<sup>2392</sup> Osaka Declaration on Digital Economy. URL: [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News\\_ciir/Project/G20\\_new\\_downloadings/OSAKA\\_DECLARATION\\_ON\\_DIGITAL\\_ECONOMY\\_eng.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/OSAKA_DECLARATION_ON_DIGITAL_ECONOMY_eng.pdf) (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2393</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. Accessed 13 April 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/interoperability>

<sup>2394</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration. URL: [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News\\_ciir/Project/G20\\_new\\_downloadings/FINAL\\_G20\\_Osaka\\_Leaders\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf) (accessed: 22 December 2019)

<sup>2395</sup> Cambridge dictionary. Accessed 13 April 2020. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/framework>

<sup>2396</sup> Resolución 2524/2019, Legislative Information of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/325000-329999/329903/norma.htm>

On 27 April 2020, Red Hat, Inc., a provider of open source solutions, announced that the Argentine Ministry of Health implemented a National Digital Health Network to vastly improve accessibility of universal healthcare coverage services and initiatives using Red Hat open hybrid cloud technologies and facilitate interoperability.<sup>2397</sup>

On 18 August 2020, the meeting of the COFEFUP Administrative Modernization Commission was held via videoconference. The general objective of the 2020-2024 Work Plan of the CoFeFuP Administrative Modernization Commission is to propose actions to de-bureaucratize the State, simplifying and speeding up procedures to make the lives of citizens easier and more practical. To achieve this, its members defined addressing these 8 management axes, among which the second one is dedicated to the Interoperability and comprehensiveness of information systems.<sup>2398</sup>

On 24 September 2020, Administrative Modernization Commission and Technological Infrastructure and Cybersecurity Commission held a meeting to discuss definition of indicators for measuring the conditions of interoperability of data and systems in provincial public administrations, federal mapping of the institutional framework of cybersecurity in the provinces and hold a round of consultations, considerations and contributions from the provinces.<sup>2399</sup>

Argentina is taking steps to improve its national framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, but no evidence of Argentina contributing to development of international frameworks has been found.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 31 October 2019, the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) released an Auditor-General Report no. 11 detailing the extent to which Australian government entities have implemented the Digital Continuity 2020 policy adopted in October 2015. One of the policy's goals was to ensure interoperability of information, systems and processes within the government structure. The ANAO concludes, however, that "Australian Government is unlikely to achieve the objectives of the Digital Continuity policy by the end of 2020, and the National Archives of Australia (the Archives) has been largely ineffective in monitoring, assisting, and encouraging entities to meet the targets of the policy."<sup>2400</sup>

On 23 October 2019, Australia along with Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, Israel, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore and

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<sup>2397</sup> Argentine Ministry of Health Enlists Red Hat to Help Establish a National Digital Health Network, Red Hat (Raleigh) 27 April 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.redhat.com/es/about/press-releases/argentine-ministry-health-enlists-red-hat-help-establish-national-digital-health-network>

<sup>2398</sup> Nueva reunión de la Comisión de Modernización Administrativa del COFEFUP, Government of Argentina 19 August 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/nueva-reunion-de-la-comision-de-modernizacion-administrativa-del-cofefup>

<sup>2399</sup> La Interoperabilidad de datos y sistemas y la ciberseguridad en la administración pública desde una perspectiva federal, Government of Argentina 24 September 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-interoperabilidad-de-datos-y-sistemas-y-la-ciberseguridad-en-la-administracion-publica>

<sup>2400</sup> Implementation of the Digital Continuity 2020 Policy, Australian National Audit Office (Canberra) 31 October 2019, <https://www.anao.gov.au/work/performance-audit/implementation-digital-continuity-2020-policy>.

Switzerland issued a communication on the Work Programme on Electronic Commerce of the World Trade Organization (WTO), specifically on the subject of moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. Australia and other co-signing WTO members called for an extension of the moratorium until the 12th Ministerial Conference, with a view to ensure “certainty and predictability for business and consumers.” The WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce has a goal of establishing an international set of norms and standards, regulating transboundary trade in electronic goods and services.<sup>2401</sup>

On 29 November 2019, Australia issued a similar communication, this time in concert with Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, Israel, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and Uruguay.<sup>2402</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Australia issued the revised communication on Broadening and deepening the discussions on the moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions within the WTO, along with Canada; Chile; Colombia; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Korea; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; Thailand and Uruguay.<sup>2403</sup>

Australia took actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

#### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 9 October 2019, decree No. 10,046 was issued. It provides for governance in data sharing within the scope of the federal public administration and institutes the Citizen Base Register and the Central Data Governance Committee. The main goals of the decree are to simplify the provision of public services; guide and optimize the formulation, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of public policies; make it possible to analyze the conditions for accessing and maintaining social and tax benefits; promote the improvement of the quality and reliability of data held by the federal public administration; and increase the quality and efficiency of the internal operations of the federal public administration.<sup>2404</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the Brazilian government published Interoperability Standards for digital government. The architecture of Interoperability Standards (ePING) defines a minimum set of assumptions, policies and technical specifications that regulate the use of Information and

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<sup>2401</sup> Work Programme and Moratorium on Electronic Commerce, WTO (Geneve) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W782R1.pdf>.

<sup>2402</sup> Work Programme and Moratorium on Electronic Commerce, WTO (Geneve) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W782R2.pdf>.

<sup>2403</sup> Broadening and deepening the discussions on the moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions (revision), WTO (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W799R1.pdf&Open=True>.

<sup>2404</sup> Decree No. 10,046, of October 9, 2019, Presidency of the Republic Sub-General Secretariat for Legal Affairs (Brasilia) 9 October 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_Ato2019-2022/2019/Decreto/D10046.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_Ato2019-2022/2019/Decreto/D10046.htm)

Communication Technology in the Federal Government, establishing the conditions for interaction with other Powers and spheres of government and with the society in general.<sup>2405</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the U.S. National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) and the Brazilian National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO) (counterpart agencies responsible for measurement science and standards in the U.S. and Brazil, respectively) acknowledged the fundamental importance of international cooperation in measurements and standardization, and have identified five areas for potential cooperation: bioscience and health; cybersecurity and privacy, quantum electrical standards; Internet of Things (IoT); and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI). NIST and INMETRO future collaboration opportunities include personnel exchanges, career development sponsorships, and sharing NIST experience with the recently released privacy framework, and best practices in smart cities, AI, IoT interoperability and cybersecurity.<sup>2406</sup>

Brazil took actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 7 August 2019, the Government of Canada released the National Cyber Security Action Plan and re-launched the Cyber Security Cooperation Program. The latter is designed to support projects aimed at improving Canada's cyber systems to increase innovation and cooperation including through establishing international partnerships.<sup>2407</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Canada issued a communication to the World Trade Organization (WTO) within the electronic commerce track on Preventing the Use of Personal Information from being used for the Discrimination or Persecution of Natural Persons. In the communication Canada stated, that it continued to adapt and modernize its approach to digital trade policy and expressed its interest in strengthening provisions related to the protection of personal information under the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on E-commerce. Canada proposed to include the following passage into the potential international arrangement on the issue: "No Party/Member shall use the personal information of users of digital trade to persecute or discriminate against a natural person on the basis

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<sup>2405</sup> Interoperability Standards, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 28 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/governodigital/pt-br/governanca-de-dados/padroes-de-interoperabilidade>

<sup>2406</sup> Joint Statement of the 18th Edition of the U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue May 14, 2020, U.S. Embassy in Brazil 12 May 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://br.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-of-the-18th-edition-of-the-u-s-brazil-commercial-dialogue-may-14-2020/>

<sup>2407</sup> The Government of Canada advances cyber security innovation and cooperation, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/08/the-government-of-canada-advances-cyber-security-innovation-and-cooperation.html>.

of race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or disability.”<sup>2408</sup>

On 9 October 2019, Canada and New Zealand issued a joint communication to the WTO on the Transparency in WTO negotiations and application to the Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) e-commerce negotiations. The communication called for increased transparency of the JSI negotiation process, including the publishing of records of meetings and other documentation.<sup>2409</sup>

On 29 November 2019, Canada issued a communication, in concert with Australia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Georgia, Guatemala, Hong Kong (China), Iceland, Israel, Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, and Uruguay. In this communication on the WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce, Canada and other co-signing WTO members called for an extension of the moratorium until the 12th Ministerial Conference, with a view to ensure “certainty and predictability for business and consumers.” The WTO Work Programme on Electronic Commerce has a goal of establishing an international set of norms and standards, regulating transboundary trade in electronic goods and services.<sup>2410</sup>

On 21 January 2020, Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Sveriges Riksbank and the Swiss National Bank, together with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), have created a group to share experiences as they assess the potential cases for central bank digital currency in their home jurisdictions. The group will assess those cases; economic, functional and technical design choices, including cross-border interoperability; and the sharing of knowledge on emerging technologies. It will closely coordinate with the relevant institutions and forums — in particular, the Financial Stability Board and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures.<sup>2411</sup>

On 10 February 2020, Canada, New Zealand and Ukraine issued a joint communication to the WTO on the Transparency in WTO negotiations and application to the JSI e-commerce negotiations. The communication called for increased transparency of the JSI negotiation process, including the publishing of records of meetings and other documentation.<sup>2412</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Canada issued the revised communication on Broadening and deepening the discussions on the moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions within the WTO, along with Australia; Chile; Colombia; Hong Kong, China; Iceland; Korea; New Zealand; Norway; Singapore; Switzerland; Thailand and Uruguay.<sup>2413</sup>

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<sup>2408</sup> Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce Communication from Canada Concept Paper — Preventing the Use of Personal Information from being used for the Discrimination or Persecution of Natural Persons, WTO (Geneva) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020.

<https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/INF/ECOM/39.pdf>.

<sup>2409</sup> Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce — Communication from New Zealand and Canada — Non paper — Transparency in WTO negotiations and application to the JSI, WTO (Geneva) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/INF/ECOM/42R1.pdf>.

<sup>2410</sup> Work Programme and Moratorium on Electronic Commerce, WTO (Geneva) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W782R2.pdf>.

<sup>2411</sup> Central bank group to assess potential cases for central bank digital currencies, Bank Of Japan (Tokyo) 21 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release\\_2020/rel200121a.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2020/rel200121a.htm/)

<sup>2412</sup> Joint Statement on Electronic Commerce — Communication from New Zealand, Canada and Ukraine — Non paper — Transparency in WTO negotiations and application to the JSI, WTO (Geneva) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/INF/ECOM/42R2.pdf>.

<sup>2413</sup> Broadening and deepening the discussions on the moratorium on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions (revision), WTO (Geneva) 29 June 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/SS/directdoc.aspx?filename=q:/WT/GC/W799R1.pdf&Open=True>.

Canada took actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment on improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 26 October 2019, China approved the first national law on encryption. The regulation came into force on the 1 January 2020. It broadens the current regulatory scope of encryption, liberalizes commercial encryption at national-law level and proposes a market-oriented regulatory regime for the commercial encryption industry.<sup>2414</sup>

On 6 November 2019, China launched six new pilot zones for innovation and development of the digital economy. These zones are said to serve as the mechanism to optimize the allocation of data and to keep up government regulation with new issues emerging from the fast growth in the digital economy.<sup>2415</sup>

On 3 July 2020, the National People's Congress of China has issued a draft Data Security Law. The main goal of a new law is to prevent cyber attacks and data leaks by upholding strict technical requirements and exert control over Internet content and cyber infrastructure.<sup>2416</sup>

China is taking steps to improve its national framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, but no evidence of China contributing to development of international frameworks has been found.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment on improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 30 March 2020, the French Tax Authority issued draft guidance on the scope and computation of the new digital services tax (DST) and the related compliance issues. Services subject to the tax include targeted online advertising, including the sale of user data; and online 'digital intermediation' services such as platforms and marketplaces. Each category has its own set of rules in terms of territoriality and computation of the ratio of French-deemed services (the French presence ratio).<sup>2417</sup>

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<sup>2414</sup> China Cybersecurity and Data Protection: China publishes first law on encryption, Lexology (London) 12 November 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=53282dfc-c7f6-4cef-8de6-8f180fed8b31>

<sup>2415</sup> China to push public data sharing in digital economy pilot zones, Xinhua (Beijing) 06 November 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/06/c\\_138533926.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/06/c_138533926.htm)

<sup>2416</sup> China Releases Draft Data Security Law, Lexology 8 September 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=9edf023e-a252-4517-ab3a-32762db6b918>

<sup>2417</sup> France issues comprehensive draft guidance on digital services tax, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (London) 16 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.step.org/news/france-issues-comprehensive-draft-guidance-digital-services-tax>

On 26 December 2019, the French Financial Markets Authority published new regulations concerning the licensing of digital assets providers. Licensed providers are required to have professional indemnity insurance or a minimum amount of reserve funds, at least one effective senior manager, resilient information technology systems, an internal control system, a claims handling procedure, an organization enabling it to avoid conflicts of interests and procedures to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.<sup>2418</sup>

On 22 August 2019, France and India presented a Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technology. India and France affirmed their willingness to reinforce cooperation, notably through the sharing of information between their cybersecurity agencies, in order to prevent malicious activities, undertake immediate corrective response, mitigate their potential impact and identify their causes. Recognizing the need to strengthen the security of digital processes, products and services, France and India intend to share information on the legal and regulatory framework and best practices, including on the protection of economic information infrastructure impacting national security, and on testing and certification of digital products. In this context, France and India intend to work together on the risks associated with the deployment of 5G technologies and the technical solutions adopted to deal with them.<sup>2419</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission presented the European data strategy. The strategy provides for measure to ensure free flow of data within the European Union and free and safe flow of data with third countries, subject to exceptions and restrictions for public security, public order and other legitimate public policy objectives of the European Union, in line with international obligations.<sup>2420</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the EU members agreed on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing and warning apps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This technical solution allows national apps to work seamlessly when users travel to another EU country.<sup>2421</sup>

France is taking steps to improve both national and international frameworks to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on digitalization.

On 6 November 2019, German federal ministry for economic affairs and energy and the ministry of economy, trade and industry of Japan issued a joint statement on economic policy and cooperation. Both sides committed to accelerating discussions on a digital economy, including international rule-making on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the World Trade Organization, under the

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<sup>2418</sup> Crypto Firms Can Now Apply for a License in France, Yahoo Finance 26 December 2019. Access date: 03 April 2020. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/crypto-firms-now-apply-license-170000940.html>

<sup>2419</sup> Indo-French Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technology. Government of India Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 22 August 2019. Access date: 03 April 2020. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31757/IndoFrench+Roadmap+on+Cybersecurity+and+Digital+Technology+August+22+2019>

<sup>2420</sup> A European strategy for data, European Commission 19 February 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020_en.pdf).

<sup>2421</sup> Coronavirus: Member States agree on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing and warning apps, European Commission 16 June 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1043](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1043).

Osaka Track launched at the margin of the G20 Osaka Summit. They mentioned that this work would be guided in particular by the concept of data free flow with trust, and thus both sides would work together to enhance trust concerning data security, while respecting each other's respective regulatory framework.<sup>2422</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission presented the European data strategy. The strategy provides for measure to ensure free flow of data within the European Union and free and safe flow of data with third countries, subject to exceptions and restrictions for public security, public order and other legitimate public policy objectives of the European Union, in line with international obligations.<sup>2423</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the EU members agreed on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing and warning apps to address the COVID-19 pandemic. This technical solution allows national apps to work seamlessly when users travel to another EU country.<sup>2424</sup>

Germany has taken actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

#### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 2 August 2019, the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution issued the e-commerce guidelines for consumer protection, 2019 in order to safeguard the interest of the consumers. The guidelines are only applicable to business-to-customer (B2C) e-commerce entities. The guidelines are also applicable to all B2C e-commerce entities involved in digital content products.<sup>2425</sup>

On 22 August 2019, France and India presented a Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technology. India and France affirmed their willingness to reinforce cooperation, notably through the sharing of information between their cybersecurity agencies, in order to prevent malicious activities, undertake immediate corrective response, mitigate their potential impact and identify their causes. Recognizing the need to strengthen the security of digital processes, products and services, France and India intend to share information on the legal and regulatory framework and best practices, including on the protection of economic information infrastructure impacting national

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<sup>2422</sup> Joint Statement of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on economic policy and cooperation, German federal ministry for economic affairs and energy 6 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Downloads/joint-statement-on-economic-policy-and-cooperation.pdf>.

<sup>2423</sup> A European strategy for data, European Commission 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020_en.pdf).

<sup>2424</sup> Coronavirus: Member States agree on an interoperability solution for mobile tracing and warning apps, European Commission 16 June 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1043](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1043).

<sup>2425</sup> Advisory to State Governments / Union Territories: Model Framework for Guidelines on e-Commerce for consumer protection, Government of India Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (Department of Consumer Affairs) (Delhi) 2 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/sites/default/files/file-uploads/latestnews/Guidelines%20on%20e-Commerce.pdf>



security, and on testing and certification of digital products. In this context, France and India intend to work together on the risks associated with the deployment of 5G technologies and the technical solutions adopted to deal with them.<sup>2426</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a data protection bill for tabling in parliament, taking the country a step closer to framing a privacy law. The bill mandates that personal data categorized as sensitive will be stored or processed only in India, the source said, declining to be named as details about the bill in its current form are not public. It also says that data deemed sensitive will have to be stored in India but can be processed outside of the country.<sup>2427</sup>

India is taking steps to improve both national and international frameworks to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 17 August 2019, Bank of Indonesia launched a quick response (QR) code standard for payments through server-based e-money applications, electronic wallets and mobile banking known as QR Code Indonesian Standard (QRIS). National QRIS implementation will be effective from 1st January 2020 in order to provide an adequate transition period for payment system service providers to prepare for the new standard. QRIS launching is part of the roll-out of the Indonesian Payment System Vision for 2025, announced in May 2019. QRIS was compiled by Bank Indonesia along with the Indonesia Payment System Association, using EMV Co. 1 international standards to support broader payment system instrument interconnectedness and accommodate the specific needs of Indonesia, thus providing interoperability between providers, instruments and other countries.<sup>2428</sup>

On 28 November 2019, Bank Indonesia issued a blueprint titled Bank Indonesia: Menavigasi Sistem Pembayaran Nasional di Era Digital (Bank Indonesia: Navigating the National Payment System in the Digital Era) as a follow-up to Indonesia's 2025 Payment System Visions that were introduced in May this year. Through the 2025 visions, Bank Indonesia intends to: support the integration of national digital economy and finance, support banking digitalization, guarantee the interlink between fintech and banking, ensure there is a balance between innovation, consumer protection and healthy business competition, safeguard national interests in cross-border digital economy and finance. It is planned that Bank Indonesia, together with industry, will develop an integrated payment interface to ensure interoperability from the transaction's starting point.<sup>2429</sup>

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<sup>2426</sup> Indo-French Roadmap on Cybersecurity and Digital Technology. Government of India Ministry of Foreign Affairs (New Delhi) 22 August 2019. Access date: 03 April 2020. <https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31757/IndoFrench+Roadmap+on+Cybersecurity+and+Digital+Technology+August+22+2019>

<sup>2427</sup> India's cabinet clears data protection bill for tabling in parliament, CNBC 4 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/12/04/reuters-america-update-1-indias-cabinet-clears-data-protection-bill-for-tabling-in-parliament.html>

<sup>2428</sup> QRIS, One QR Code for all Payments, Bank of Indonesia (Jakarta) 17 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.bi.go.id/en/ruang-media/siaran-pers/Pages/SP\\_216219.aspx](https://www.bi.go.id/en/ruang-media/siaran-pers/Pages/SP_216219.aspx)

<sup>2429</sup> Indonesia Payment Systems Blueprint 2025 Bank Indonesia: Navigating the National Payment Systems in the Digital Era, Bank Indonesia (Jakarta) 28 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bi.go.id/en/publikasi/sistem-pembayaran/riset/Documents/Indonesia-Payment-Systems-Blueprint-2025.pdf>

On 1 February 2020, Bank Indonesia made a deal with Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to boost their ties in improving payment systems and digital financial innovation. The deal complements the previous central banks' cooperation related to anti-money laundering and preventing terrorism financing in the field of payment systems. In a joint statement, the central banks said their Memorandum of Understanding looks to “provide a framework of closer cooperation between the two central banks” in order to attain a “more secure, efficient and reliable payment system, and to promote digital financial innovation.”<sup>2430</sup>

Indonesia taking steps to improve both national and international framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

In 2019-2021, Italy will be implementing Three-Year Plan for Information Technology in public administration. The new plan foresees actions to accelerate the transition to digital administrations and local entities and to empower citizens and businesses in being active protagonists of innovation. The Three-Year Plan 2019-2021 outlines the actions needed to promote the digital transformation of the public sector, moving in the same direction defined by the 2017- 2019 Plan. In particular, the new plan defines the fundamental architectural principles, the interoperability rules of national infrastructures, and the cooperation model between different ecosystems and platforms.<sup>2431</sup>

On 23 January 2020, the law introducing necessary changes to the national legislation was approved. Among the adopted acts is Directive (EU) 2019/520 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 March 2019 on the interoperability of electronic road toll systems and aimed at facilitating the cross-border exchange of information on non-payment of road tolls in the Union.<sup>2432</sup>

In July 2020, the Guideline on the Interoperability Model for the PA (hereinafter Guideline) was adopted as a part of Three-year plan for IT in the Public Administration 2020–2022, It identifies the standards and their methods of use for the implementation of APIs, favoring: increased interoperability between PAs and between them and citizens / businesses; the quality and safety of the solutions implemented; the de-duplication and co-creation of APIs.<sup>2433</sup>

Italy is taking steps to improve both national and international framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

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<sup>2430</sup> Indonesia, Philippines Central Bank Inks Deal on Payment Systems, TheInsiderStories (Jakarta) 1 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://theinsiderstories.com/indonesia-philippines-central-bank-inks-deal-on-payment-systems/>

<sup>2431</sup> 2019 - 2021 Three-Year Plan for IT in the Public Administration, Agency for Digital Italy 2019. Access date: 13 October 2020. [https://www.agid.gov.it/sites/default/files/repository\\_files/three\\_year\\_plan\\_for\\_it\\_in\\_public\\_administration\\_2019-2021.pdf](https://www.agid.gov.it/sites/default/files/repository_files/three_year_plan_for_it_in_public_administration_2019-2021.pdf)

<sup>2432</sup> Legge di delegazione europea 2019, Italian Department for European Policies 23 January 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <http://www.politicheeuropee.gov.it/it/normativa/legge-di-delegazione-europea/legge-delegazione-ue-2019/>

<sup>2433</sup> Piano Triennale per l'informatica nella Pubblica Amministrazione 2020 – 2022, Docs Italia July 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://docs.italia.it/italia/piano-triennale-ict/pianotriennale-ict-doc/it/2020-2022/index.html>

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on digitalization.

On 10-11 October 2019, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, the National Center of Incident readiness and Strategy for Cybersecurity, the Personal Information Protection Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and other organizations jointly participated in a U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy (the tenth director general-level meeting) which was held in Tokyo. The dialogue included discussions with private sector representatives from both countries on “promotion of open, interoperable, reliable, and secure fifth generation mobile technologies (5G) networks and services”; “public-private cooperation on the deployment in third countries of digital infrastructure and services”; “international coordination on areas such as sharing of best practices of Internet of Things (IoT) security and promotion of free flows of data”; and “public-private partnership regarding the social implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in a manner that fosters public trust in AI.”<sup>2434</sup>

On 6 November 2019, the German federal ministry for economic affairs and energy and METI issued a joint statement on economic policy and cooperation. Both sides committed to accelerating discussions on a digital economy, including international rule-making on trade-related aspects of electronic commerce at the World Trade Organization, under the Osaka Track launched at the margin of the G20 Osaka Summit. They mentioned that this work would be guided in particular by the concept of data free flow with trust, and thus both sides would work together to enhance trust concerning data security, while respecting each other’s respective regulatory framework.<sup>2435</sup>

On 20 December 2019, METI announced that in response to Japan’s submission to the ISO/IEC Joint Technical Committee of a proposal for developing new international standards for enhancing data collaboration among IoT systems, the committee decided to advance deliberations on standardization of the proposed technology. These new standards are expected to: encourage different industrial fields to mutually utilize IoT equipment among their systems; help companies reduce costs for system development; and encourage companies to collaboratively develop IoT systems.<sup>2436</sup>

On 27 December 2019, METI revised the Cybersecurity Guidelines for Energy Resource Aggregation Business, a compilation of cybersecurity measures that companies participating in the energy resource aggregation business (ERAB) framework should take. The first key point of the revision is dedicated to securing interoperability of cyber physical systems. The ERAB system aims not only to protect information but also to secure resilience to encourage electricity systems to

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<sup>2434</sup> Tenth U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018\\_005.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018_005.html)

<sup>2435</sup> Joint Statement of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan on economic policy and cooperation, German federal ministry for economic affairs and energy 6 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Downloads/joint-statement-on-economic-policy-and-cooperation.pdf>.

<sup>2436</sup> Development of New International Standards for Vitalizing IoT, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 20 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1220\\_004.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1220_004.html)

continue to work physically, and to this end, the revised guidelines additionally require ERAB companies to formulate security measures for entire supply chains.<sup>2437</sup>

On 21 January 2020, Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Sveriges Riksbank and the Swiss National Bank, together with the Bank for International Settlements, have created a group to share experiences as they assess the potential cases for central bank digital currency in their home jurisdictions. The group will assess the cases; economic, functional and technical design choices, including cross-border interoperability; and the sharing of knowledge on emerging technologies. It will closely coordinate with the relevant institutions and forums — in particular, the Financial Stability Board and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures.<sup>2438</sup>

Japan has taken actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 5 March 2020, the National Assembly passed a new legislation on cryptocurrency trading. The regulation authorizes Korea's financial regulators to effectively oversee the growing industry and develop rules around anti-money laundering among other processes.<sup>2439</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the Financial Services Commission of Korea unveiled the 5th Plan for Financial Hub Policy for 2020–2022. The specific strategies include pursuing regulatory reforms to promote private sector-driven innovation, building infrastructure to continue innovative growth in the financial industry and adopting a “selection and concentration” approach to build global capacity with a particular attention paid to the ASEAN markets. Among the main pillars of the policy, the key factors are the development of the digital financial technologies and promotion of anti-money laundering framework.<sup>2440</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Government of Korea revealed a plan of massive financial support for emerging digital economy. The government allocates more than 23 trl KRW to promote job creation, improvement of data ecosystem, establishment of a public-private data control centre, etc.<sup>2441</sup>

Korea is taking steps to improve both national and international framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

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<sup>2437</sup> Cybersecurity Guidelines for Energy Resource Aggregation Business Revised, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 27 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

[https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1227\\_005.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1227_005.html)

<sup>2438</sup> Central bank group to assess potential cases for central bank digital currencies, Bank Of Japan (Tokyo) 21 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release\\_2020/rel200121a.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2020/rel200121a.htm/)

<sup>2439</sup> "암호화폐 거래 제도화" 특금법 통과.. 향후 쟁점은 (Special Act on Institutionalization of Cryptocurrency trading Passed), DAUM (Seoul) 05 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://news.v.daum.net/v/20200305173114246>

<sup>2440</sup> FSC Unveils 5<sup>th</sup> Plan for Financial Hub Policy, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 18 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200518111610\\_58dffdf1.pdf](http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200518111610_58dffdf1.pdf)

<sup>2441</sup> S. Korea highlights digital New Deal for post-COVID-19 period at G-20 meeting, Yonhap News 23 July 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20200723005000320>

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 14 August 2019, the Official Office of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit and the Tax Administration Service signed a collaboration agreement for the interoperability, exchange of information and automation of the Electronic System of Public Government Information on acquisitions, leases, public works and services related.<sup>2442</sup>

On 5 September 2019, the Executive Secretariat of the National Anticorruption System presented the beta version of the National Digital Platform (PDN), which contains data for Public Server Systems that intervene in contracting processes and the System of Public and Private Servants Sanctioned, provided by the Ministry of Public Function and the State of Mexico. The PDN is an interoperability tool that will work with the input of data from government agencies at the state and federal levels, as well as from autonomous agencies, to exchange strategic information to prevent and punish possible acts of corruption.<sup>2443</sup>

On 11 September 2019, the 16th meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Council on Civil Registry, Identity and Vital Statistics took place. General Director of the Mexican National Registry of Population and Identity Jorge Wheatley Fernández rendered the report on progress on the management of regulations, data protection and diversity, including a project on preparing the legal document to the interoperability of the databases. These projects will help strengthen the mechanisms for exchanging information between member countries and obtaining best practices that contribute to guaranteeing the right to identity in the region.<sup>2444</sup>

On 18 September 2019, National Telecommunications and Antennas Laboratory of the National Polytechnic Institute collaborated with the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation in the implementation of the model and in the development of test protocols. The results of these tests demonstrated that interoperability between different technologies is currently possible only at the voice level.<sup>2445</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Digital Agency for Public Innovation presented the Digital Citizenship Plan. It is a road map for digital transformation and innovation whose general objective is to strengthen the relationship between citizens and the city government. One key element is the Interoperability Track. It suggests standards for consultation of information and documents between

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<sup>2442</sup> Comunicado No. 076 Firman convenio la Oficialía Mayor de la SHCP y el SAT, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 14 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/comunicado-no-076-firman-convenio-la-oficialia-mayor-de-la-shcp-y-el-sat?idiom=es-MX>

<sup>2443</sup> Lanza Sesna Versión Beta De Plataforma Digital Nacional, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 5 September 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sesna/prensa/lanza-sesna-version-beta-de-plataforma-digital-nacional>

<sup>2444</sup> XVI Encuentro del Consejo Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Registro Civil, Identidad y Estadísticas Vitales, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 September 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/segob%7Crenapo/articulos/xvi-encuentro-del-consejo-latinoamericano-y-del-caribe-de-registro-civil-identidad-y-estadisticas-vitales>

<sup>2445</sup> Condujo la SCT procesos y pruebas en apoyo a la modernización de redes de seguridad pública, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 18 September 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sct/prensa/condujo-la-sct-procesos-y-pruebas-en-apoyo-a-la-modernizacion-de-redes-de-seguridad-publica>

public entities, which guarantee the security and confidentiality of the information and allow the interaction of the systems of the entities.<sup>2446</sup>

Mexico is taking steps to improve both national and international framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with the commitment on digitalization.

On 3 April 2020, the Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation published the second version of the Uniform Requirements for State Data Management. The requirements are the main element of the National Data Governance System, which is created in the framework of Russia's Digital Economy. One of the pillars of these requirements is interoperability of different data governance systems.<sup>2447</sup>

No actions on improving international digital frameworks interoperability have been registered during the monitoring period. However, Russia has taken such measures at the national level.<sup>2448</sup>

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 26 July 2019, Saudi Arabia issued the e-commerce law to regulate and oversee the transactions conducted online. The primary objective is to regulate the practice of e-commerce by increasing transparency, ensuring consumer protection and enhancing trust in online transactions.<sup>2449</sup>

On 27 August 2019, the Council of Ministers of Saudi Arabia issued a five-year strategy for the information and communication technology sector. The strategy includes an ambitious action plan to attract leading international companies in the priority areas of emerging technologies, increase the share of local content in the information technology sector, improve the technical skills of the relevant local workforce, enhance technical and digital knowledge, drive technical innovation through the promotion of research and development in Saudi Arabia's startup ecosystem, enable the

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<sup>2446</sup> Presentación del Plan de Ciudadanía Digital, Digital Agency for Public Innovation (Mexico) 29 November 2019.

Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://adip.cdmx.gob.mx/comunicacion/nota/presentacion-del-plan-de-ciudadania-digital>

<sup>2447</sup> National Data Governance System, Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation 30 June 2020.

Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://ac.gov.ru/projects/project/nacionalnaa-sistema-upravlenia-dannymi-nsud-41>.

<sup>2448</sup> Websites of Russian President, Russian Government, Russian Ministry of Digital Development were searched as well as open sources.

<sup>2449</sup> Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia introduces New E-Commerce Law, Mondaq 24 September 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudiarabia/Consumer-Protection/847524/Saudi-Arabia-introduces-New-E-Commerce-Law>

development of mega projects, as well as to support coordination and synergy between the relevant entities in information and communications technologies in the public and private sectors.<sup>2450</sup>

On 25 February 2020, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority released additional licensing guidelines and criteria for digital-only banks operating in Saudi Arabia. Guidelines for digital-only banks include that applicants for licenses must be set up as a locally incorporated joint-stock company and maintain a physical presence in Saudi Arabia.<sup>2451</sup>

On 26 July 2019, Saudi Arabia issued the e-commerce law to regulate and oversee the transactions conducted online. The primary objective is to regulate the practice of e-commerce by increasing transparency, ensuring consumer protection and enhancing trust in online transactions.<sup>2452</sup>

Saudi Arabia is taking steps to improve its national framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, but no evidence of Saudi Arabia contributing to development of international frameworks has been found.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

In 2019-2024 National Digital Health Strategy will be implemented in South Africa. One of the key goals of the programme is establishment of an integrated platform and architecture for health sector information system which will also ensure interoperability and linkage of existing patient-based information system.<sup>2453</sup>

South Africa is taking steps to improve its national framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, but no evidence of contributing to development of international frameworks has been found.<sup>2454</sup>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>2450</sup> Saudi Arabia's ICT Strategy Shapes The Future Of Innovation And Digital Economy, Says Minister Al-Swaha, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology 27 August 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.mcit.gov.sa/en/media-center/news/175651>

<sup>2451</sup> Saudi central bank issues additional licensing guidelines for digital-only banks, Salaam Gateway 25 February 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.salaamgateway.com/story/saudi-central-bank-issues-additional-licensing-guidelines-for-digital-only-banks>

<sup>2452</sup> Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia introduces New E-Commerce Law, Mondaq 24 September 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/saudi-arabia/Consumer-Protection/847524/Saudi-Arabia-introduces-New-E-Commerce-Law>

<sup>2453</sup> National Digital Health Strategy for South Africa 2019 – 2024, Ministry of Health of South Africa 2019. Access date: 2 October 2020. <http://www.health.gov.za/index.php/2014-08-15-12-54-26?download=3651:national-digital-health-strategy-for-south-africa-2019-2024>.

<sup>2454</sup> Websites of the South African government, including the Communications and Digital Technologies Department and the Department of Trade and Industry, as well as open sources were searched.

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partly complied with the commitment on improvement of interoperability of different national or international frameworks.

On 21 August 2020, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) has established Turkey's QR code standards as part of intentional efforts to support innovative methods of executing and handling payments. National rules and principles for the standardized "TR QR Code" aim to enhance the use of a common QR code in retail payments, initiate practical, easier, more efficient and safer payments, and thus help to reduce use of physical cash in the form of banknotes. Against this backdrop, a standard QR code structure and set of rules have been established to enable interoperability by using a common language among payment system operators within the payments infrastructure ecosystem, support all sorts of initiatives from innovators, and contribute to the widespread acceptance of QR codes in the form of digital payments.<sup>2455</sup>

Turkey is taking steps to improve its national framework to harness the opportunities of the digital economy, but no evidence of contributing to development of international frameworks has been found.<sup>2456</sup>

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on digitalization.

On 9 October 2019, UK International Trade Secretary Liz Truss in her address at the World Trade Organization (WTO) stated that one of the UK's priorities within the WTO agenda is "to reform digital trade rules so that they are fit for the 21st century, reducing restrictions to market access to support e-commerce and ensure the free flow of data across borders."<sup>2457</sup>

On 21 January 2020, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Sveriges Riksbank and the Swiss National Bank, together with the Bank for International Settlements, have created a group to share experiences as they assess the potential cases for central bank digital currency in their home jurisdictions. The group will assess the cases; economic, functional and technical design choices, including cross-border interoperability; and the sharing of knowledge on emerging technologies. It will closely coordinate with the relevant institutions and forums — in particular, the Financial Stability Board and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures.<sup>2458</sup>

On 3 February 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared that the UK will seek 'adequacy decisions' from the European Union under both the General Data Protection Regulation and the Law Enforcement Directive before the end of the transition period to maintain the continued free flow of personal data from the EU to the UK. This will allow the continued free flow of personal

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<sup>2455</sup> Press Release on Turkish QR Code Rules and Principles, Central Bank of Turkey 21 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020.

<https://www.tcmb.gov.tr/wps/wcm/connect/en/tcmb+en/main+menu/announcements/press+releases/2020/ano2020-52>

<sup>2456</sup> Websites of Turkish government, ICT Authority, Invest in Turkey, Ministry of Industry and Technology were searched as well as open sources.

<sup>2457</sup> International Trade Secretary WTO address, UK Government 9 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/international-trade-secretary-wto-address>.

<sup>2458</sup> Central bank group to assess potential cases for central bank digital currencies, Bank Of Japan (Tokyo) 21 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release\\_2020/rel200121a.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2020/rel200121a.htm/)



data from the countries in the European Economic Area to the UK, including for law enforcement purposes.<sup>2459</sup> On 13 March 2020, the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport published a pack of explanatory material providing an overview of the UK's legal framework underpinning data protection standards in order to assist the European Commission in conducting its assessment.<sup>2460</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the UK Government published the National Data Strategy. According to this document, the UK will take measures to improve interoperability domestically and cooperate with nations to develop shared standards that align with the UK's national interests and objectives.<sup>2461</sup>

The UK has taken actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

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

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to improve interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 10-11 October 2019, US representatives from the Department of State, the Department of Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission and from the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan participated in the US-Japan Policy Co-operation Dialogue on the Internet Economy in Japan. The dialogue included discussions with private sector representatives from both countries on “promotion of open, interoperable, reliable, and secure fifth generation mobile technologies (5G) networks and services”; “public-private cooperation on the deployment in third countries of digital infrastructure and services”; “international coordination on areas such as sharing of best practices of Internet of Things (IoT) security and promotion of free flows of data”; and “public-private partnership regarding the social implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in a manner that fosters public trust in AI.”<sup>2462</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the U.S. National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) and the Brazilian National Institute of Metrology, Quality and Technology (INMETRO) (counterpart agencies responsible for measurement science and standards in the U.S. and Brazil, respectively) acknowledged the fundamental importance of international cooperation in measurements and standardization, and have identified five areas for potential cooperation: bioscience and health; cybersecurity and privacy, quantum electrical standards; IoT; and emerging technologies such as AI. NIST and INMETRO future collaboration opportunities include personnel exchanges, career

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<sup>2459</sup> The Future Relationship with the EU. The UK's Approach to Negotiations, UK Government 3 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/868874/The\\_Future\\_Relationship\\_with\\_the\\_EU.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/868874/The_Future_Relationship_with_the_EU.pdf).

<sup>2460</sup> Explanatory framework for adequacy discussions, UK Government 13 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-framework-for-adequacy-discussions>.

<sup>2461</sup> National Data Strategy, UK Government 13 March 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-data-strategy/national-data-strategy>.

<sup>2462</sup> Tenth U.S.-Japan Policy Cooperation Dialogue on the Internet Economy Held, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan (Tokyo) 18 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018\\_005.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1018_005.html)

development sponsorships, and sharing NIST experience with the recently released privacy framework, and best practices in smart cities, AI, IoT interoperability and cybersecurity.<sup>2463</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan was adjusted to include COVID-19 response data. The Action Plan 2020 “identifies initial actions for agencies that are essential for establishing processes, building capacity, and aligning existing efforts to better leverage data as a strategic asset.” One of the Federal Data Strategy goals is to establish interoperability, and skills consistency across the United States government agencies.<sup>2464</sup>

The US has taken actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on interoperability of different national or international digital frameworks.

On 25 July 2019, the European Commission launched a consultation on the future of investment in Europe’s digital economy. The Commission is currently planning the Digital Europe programme, which would bring direct investment worth a total of EUR9.2 billion (subject to the agreement of the Council and the European Parliament) for the deployment of innovative digital technologies in five key areas: supercomputing, artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of these digital technologies across the economy and society in line with Europe’s ambitious sustainability goals and values. Implementation of the programme will facilitate deploying open, interoperable, trustworthy urban digital platforms tailored to communities’ needs, offering easy standardised access to new datasets, and the large scale roll-out of AI-driven services in smart energy, smart mobility, waste and secondary resource management, industry and (re)manufacturing, healthcare and e-government.<sup>2465</sup>

On 27 November 2019, directive on better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules was introduced. New provisions in the regulation include a call for stronger co-ordinated mechanisms to investigate and tackle EU-wide widespread infringements. The new regulation will also improve the current framework by requesting consumer authorities in EU member states to have additional minimum powers to deal with infringements in the digital era (such as the possibility to close websites, carry out test purchases and mystery shopping).<sup>2466</sup>

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<sup>2463</sup> Joint Statement of the 18th Edition of the U.S.-Brazil Commercial Dialogue May 14, 2020, U.S. Embassy in Brazil 12 May 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://br.usembassy.gov/joint-statement-of-the-18th-edition-of-the-u-s-brazil-commercial-dialogue-may-14-2020/>

<sup>2464</sup> Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan, Federal Data Strategy (Washington) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://strategy.data.gov/assets/docs/2020-federal-data-strategy-action-plan.pdf>.

<sup>2465</sup> Consultation on the future of investment in Europe’s digital economy, European Commission (Brussels) 25 July 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/consultation-future-investment-europes-digital-economy>

<sup>2466</sup> Directive (EU) 2019/2161 of the European Parliament And Of The Council of 27 November 2019 amending Council Directive 93/13/EEC and Directives 98/6/EC, 2005/29/EC and 2011/83/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the better enforcement and modernisation of Union consumer protection rules, Official Journal of the European Union (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32019L2161&from=EN>

On 21 January 2020, the Bank of Canada, the Bank of England, the Bank of Japan, the European Central Bank, the Sveriges Riksbank and the Swiss National Bank, together with the Bank for International Settlements, have created a group to share experiences as they assess the potential cases for central bank digital currency in their home jurisdictions. The group will assess the cases; economic, functional and technical design choices, including cross-border interoperability; and the sharing of knowledge on emerging technologies. It will closely coordinate with the relevant institutions and forums — in particular, the Financial Stability Board and the Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures.<sup>2467</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission unveiled its new digital package with ideas and actions for a digital transformation in Europe. This package includes the strategic document Shaping Europe's digital future, European strategy for data and White Paper on Artificial Intelligence. Interoperability is mentioned as one of the key aspects. A reinforced EU governments interoperability strategy scheduled for the end of 2021 will be a key action to ensure coordination and common standards for secure and borderless public sector data flows and services.<sup>2468</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the European Commission presented the European data strategy. The strategy provides for measure to ensure free flow of data within the EU and free and safe flow of data with third countries, subject to exceptions and restrictions for public security, public order and other legitimate public policy objectives of the European Union, in line with international obligations.<sup>2469</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Commission and North Macedonia signed an agreement, granting the country access to the EU ISA<sup>2</sup> (Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens) Programme to develop and share solutions for digital public administrations. The ISA<sup>2</sup> Programme is a EUR131 million initiative of the Commission aimed at simplifying administrative procedures all along Europe as well as supporting the development of interoperable digital public services that benefit businesses and citizens.<sup>2470</sup>

The EU has taken actions to improve interoperability of different frameworks at both national and international levels.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popovaana*

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<sup>2467</sup> Central bank group to assess potential cases for central bank digital currencies, Bank Of Japan (Tokyo) 21 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release\\_2020/rel200121a.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2020/rel200121a.htm/)

<sup>2468</sup> Interoperability is at the heart of the new EU digital strategy, European Commission (Brussels) 24 February 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/news/interoperability-heart-new-eu-digital-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/news/interoperability-heart-new-eu-digital-strategy_en)

<sup>2469</sup> A European strategy for data, European Commission 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/communication-european-strategy-data-19feb2020_en.pdf).

<sup>2470</sup> North Macedonia joins the EU ISA<sup>2</sup> programme for digital public administrations and the EU Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news\\_corner/news/north-macedonia-joins-eu-isa%C2%B2-programme-digital-public-administrations-and-eu\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/news/north-macedonia-joins-eu-isa%C2%B2-programme-digital-public-administrations-and-eu_en)

## 7. International Taxation: Digitalization

“We will redouble our efforts for a consensus-based solution [on addressing the tax challenges arising from digitalization] with a final report by 2020.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia	-1		
Brazil			+1
Canada		0	
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		+0.30 (65%)	

### Background

On 19 July 2013, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) issued the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).<sup>2471</sup> On 6 September 2013, at the St. Petersburg Summit, the G20 leaders fully endorsed “the ambitious and comprehensive Action Plan — originated in the OECD — aimed at addressing base erosion and profit shifting with mechanism to enrich the Plan as appropriate,” welcomed “the establishment of the G20/OECD BEPS project” and encouraged all interested countries to participate.<sup>2472</sup> Implementation details of the BEPS Action Plan developed thereafter constitute the BEPS package with 15 actions that equip governments with the necessary domestic and international instruments to ensure that profits are taxed where economic activities that generate the profits are performed and where value is created.<sup>2473</sup> The BEPS package also gives businesses greater certainty by reducing disputes over the application of international tax rules and by standardizing compliance requirements. The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on

<sup>2471</sup> Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 19 July 2013. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/action-plan-on-base-erosion-and-profit-shifting-9789264202719-en.htm>

<sup>2472</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration St. Petersburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 6 September 2013. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

<sup>2473</sup> BEPS Actions, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/>

BEPS was established to expand the coverage of measures to tackle BEPS and brings together 137 countries and jurisdictions to collaborate on implementing its recommendations.<sup>2474</sup> Commitments to address BEPS have been reiterated at all subsequent G20 summits since St. Petersburg.

### **Commitment Features**

This commitment refers to BEPS Action 1 “Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation.” It is currently the top priority for the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework. In May 2019, the Inclusive Framework issued the Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy.<sup>2475</sup> It explores technical design implementation issues that must be refined to develop a comprehensive and consensus-based solution, and includes proposals for the two challenges facing international income tax in the digital economy: changing the allocation of taxing rights through a coherent and concurrent review of the profit allocation and nexus rules (Pillar 1) and remaining BEPS issues and minimum taxation (Pillar 2).<sup>2476</sup> Given the focus of the commitment on developing “a consensus-based solution” and achieving a final report in 2020, compliance requires G20 member contribute to the discussions on the tax challenges of digitalization through, inter alia, participation in OECD public consultations.<sup>2477</sup>

The commitment also requires taking domestic measures to address the challenges of BEPS in line with recommendations on Action 1 that have already been finalized by the OECD. This refers specifically to the area of value-added taxes and goods and services taxes (VAT/GST). Relevant recommendations have been integrated into the 2016 International VAT Guidelines.<sup>2478</sup> Further guidance for implementation was provided by the 2017 report on Mechanisms for the Effective Collection of VAT/GST Where the Supplier Is Not Located in the Jurisdiction of Taxation<sup>2479</sup> and the 2019 report on The Role of Digital Platforms in the Collection of VAT/GST on Online Sales.<sup>2480</sup>

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

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<sup>2474</sup> OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/flyer-inclusive-framework-on-beps.pdf>

<sup>2475</sup> Programme of Work to Develop a Consensus Solution to the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitalisation of the Economy, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 31 May 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/programme-of-work-to-develop-a-consensus-solution-to-the-tax-challenges-arising-from-the-digitalisation-of-the-economy.htm>

<sup>2476</sup> Action 1 Tax Challenges Arising from Digitalisation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/beps-actions/action1/>

<sup>2477</sup> Planned stakeholder input in OECD tax matters, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/planned-stakeholder-input-in-oecd-tax-matters.htm>

<sup>2478</sup> International VAT/GST Guidelines, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 12 April 2017. <https://www.oecd.org/ctp/international-vat-gst-guidelines-9789264271401-en.htm>

<sup>2479</sup> Mechanisms for the Effective Collection of VAT/GST: Where the Supplier Is Not Located in the Jurisdiction of Taxation, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 2017. <http://www.oecd.org/tax/tax-policy/mechanisms-for-the-effective-collection-of-vat-gst.pdf>

<sup>2480</sup> The Role of Digital Platforms in the Collection of VAT/GST on Online Sales, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 20 June 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/the-role-of-digital-platforms-in-the-collection-of-vat-gst-on-online-sales-e0e2dd2d-en.htm>

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member does not address tax challenges arising from digitalization by not contributing to the final report on Pillars 1 and 2 or by implementing any BEPS Action 1 VAT/GST recommendations.
0	G20 member addresses tax challenges arising from digitalization by contributing to the final report on Pillars 1 and 2 OR by implementing any BEPS Action 1 VAT/GST recommendations.
+1	G20 member addresses tax challenges arising from digitalization by both contributing to the final report on Pillars 1 and 2 AND by implementing any BEPS Action 1 VAT/GST recommendations.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

**Argentina: 0**

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment on taxation of digital economy regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 30 September 2019, Argentina implemented a new system to electronically register sales, purchase, assignments, exports and imports of goods and services, locations and benefits, called the “Digital VAT Book.” Taxpayers are obliged to electronically register their operations through this regime.<sup>2481</sup>

On 13 November 2019, Argentina issued the initiative on withholding value-added tax (VAT) on e-commerce goods and services purchased by consumers from foreign providers. It withholds an amount equivalent to VAT where a payment provider facilitates the payment. As well as VAT, there is an income tax withholding requirement. The new law requires credit and debit card holders, and well as banks making electronic transfers, to split the VAT element when the vendor is not a taxable person in Argentina. This brings non-residents into the tax system for goods, services and electronic services.<sup>2482</sup>

Argentina has taken no actions to address tax challenges arising from digitalization by contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2. However, several VAT measures were implemented in accordance with BEPS Action 1 VAT/GST recommendations during the compliance period.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Australia: -1**

Australia has failed to comply with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 20 March 2019 the Australian government announced that following a consultation process, it would focus on pursuing a long-term consensus solution at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), noting overwhelming stakeholder support for this option and that many stakeholders: “raised significant concerns about the potential impact of an Australian interim measure across a wide range of Australian businesses and consumers, including discouraging

<sup>2481</sup> Resolución General AFIP N° 4597/2019, Boletín Oficial (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [http://biblioteca.afip.gob.ar/dcp/REAG01004597\\_2019\\_09\\_30](http://biblioteca.afip.gob.ar/dcp/REAG01004597_2019_09_30)

<sup>2482</sup> Argentina confirms e-commerce Withholding VAT, Avalara 13 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.avalara.com/vatlive/en/vat-news/argentina-confirms-e-commerce-withholding-vat.html>

innovation and competition, adversely affecting start-ups and low-margin businesses, and the potential for double taxation.<sup>2483</sup>

No legislative changes reflecting the recommendations of the BEPS Action 1 in Australia have been registered during the monitoring period.

Australia did not make any progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization.

Therefore, it receives a score of -1.<sup>2484</sup>

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on taxation of digital economy regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 10 July 2019, the Senate proposed a bill to amend the tax regime in Brazil. According to this bill, consumption taxes would be replaced with one single tax on consumption of goods and services, following the international standards of value-added tax. This tax would be originally set at a uniform reference rate for each federative entity, to be applied indistinctly to all transactions involving tangible or intangible assets. The final tax burden is expected to reach the initial rate of 25 per cent after a 10-year term of transition. Two concerns related to the tax reform are being voiced by digital economy companies. The first is that they would have to cope with a significant tax hike if the 25 per cent is confirmed. In return, the reform seeks to increase security for investors and provide transparency to consumers, who will bear the tax burden. Another worry relates to the criteria and mechanisms for identifying the jurisdiction of consumption. It is difficult to implement the destination principle with respect to services and intangibles, because they cannot be subject to border controls in the same way as goods. The rules should ensure there is clarity and certainty for both business and tax administrations and that compliance is kept as simple as possible with minimal costs involved.<sup>2485</sup>

On 27-28 May 2020, BRICS tax authorities meeting was held in a format of a video conference. As part of the discussion on taxation of the digital economy, the parties touched upon the distribution of residual (non-routine) profits of international groups of companies and taxation of revenues from electronic services. BRICS experts expressed their views on the prospects and potential perimeter of a mandatory mechanism for the prevention and resolution of tax disputes that may arise in the case of the so-called Unified Approach — a multilateral global project on taxation of profits of digital companies, developed under the auspices of the OECD.<sup>2486</sup>

On 18 August 2020, the bill, which envisions a tax called the Social Contribution on Digital Services (Contribuição Social sobre Serviços Digitais) was submitted. The tax would be levied on gross income derived from digital services provided by large technology companies. The proposed legislation defines digital services as the provision of any type of data digitally and including

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<sup>2483</sup> France's Digital Services Tax, Parliament of Australia 9 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020.  
[https://www.aph.gov.au/About\\_Parliament/Parliamentary\\_Departments/Parliamentary\\_Library/FlagPost/2019/August/Digital\\_Services\\_Taxation](https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2019/August/Digital_Services_Taxation)

<sup>2484</sup> Websites of the Australian Taxation Office, national government, tax analysts as well as open sources were searched.

<sup>2485</sup> Proposta De Emenda À Constituição nº 110 de 2019, Brazilian Senate 10 July 2019/ Access date: 20 May 2020.  
<https://www12.senado.leg.br/ecidania/visualizacaomateria?id=137699>

<sup>2486</sup> The Russian Federal Tax Service held consultations with experts from tax administrations of BRICS countries, Federal Tax Service of Russia 29 May 2020. Access date: 1 June 2020.  
[https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about\\_fts/inttax/9809930/](https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about_fts/inttax/9809930/)

electronic files, applications, software, music, video, texts, games and related items, and the availability of electronic apps that may allow the transfer of any digital content between users.<sup>2487</sup>

Brazil has taken part in BRICS discussion of digital economy taxation. Also several value-added tax (VAT) measures were implemented in accordance with BEPS Action 1 recommendations during the compliance period.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 22 October 2019, the government indicated its intent to introduce a 3 per cent digital services tax on the income of certain sectors of the digital economy, which would replicate the one proposed by France. The tax would only apply to targeted advertising services and digital intermediation services where the worldwide revenues of the business are at least USD1 billion and Canadian revenues are more than USD40 million.<sup>2488</sup>

On 9 December 2019, Finance Minister Bill Morneau said that Canada will move forward with its plan to tax large, international digital companies. Morneau also said Canada will work with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and other countries as it develops its proposed tax to ensure there are no loopholes.<sup>2489</sup>

However, no subsequent legislative changes reflecting the recommendations of the BEPS Action 1 have been registered during the monitoring period.

No legislative changes reflecting the recommendations of the BEPS Action 1 have been registered during the monitoring period.

Canada did not make any progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization inside the country. However, Canada supports OECD process and actively participates in it.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

**China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment on addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization regarding base erosion and profit shifting.

On 27-28 May 2020, BRICS tax authorities meeting was held in a format of a video conference. As part of the discussion on taxation of the digital economy, the parties touched upon the distribution of residual (non-routine) profits of international groups of companies and taxation of revenues from electronic services. BRICS experts expressed their views on the prospects and potential perimeter of a

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<sup>2487</sup> New Brazil digital services tax law under discussion, MNE Tax 26 August 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://mnetax.com/new-brazil-bill-for-digital-services-taxation-under-discussion-39900>

<sup>2488</sup> Taxation of the digitalized economy, KPMG (Amstelveen) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://tax.kpmg.us/content/dam/tax/en/pdfs/2019/digitalized-economy-taxation-developments-summary.pdf>.

<sup>2489</sup> UPDATE 1-Canada to move ahead with digital services tax plan -finance minister, Reuters 9 December 2020. Access date: 10 November 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/canada-politics-update-idUSL1N28J0R9>



mandatory mechanism for the prevention and resolution of tax disputes that may arise in the case of the so-called Unified Approach, a multilateral global project on taxation of profits of digital companies, developed under the auspices of the OECD.<sup>2490</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the European Commission and the Vice Premier of China Liu He held the first High Level Dialogue on digital-related issues. The parties discussed the topics of AI technologies development and digital taxation.<sup>2491</sup>

China has not taken any internal measures to address challenges of taxation of digital economy but discussed the issue on international level.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment on taxation of digital economy regarding base erosion and profit shifting.

On 11 July 2019, France's Senate approved the introduction of a digital services tax. It is retroactively applicable as from 1 January 2019. A 3 per cent tax applies on gross revenues deriving from the provision of a digital interface (i.e., intermediation services), and targeted advertising and transmission of data collected about users for advertising purposes.<sup>2492</sup>

On 21 January 2020, EU finance ministers had an exchange of views on tax challenges arising from digitalisation. They took stock of the progress achieved in the context of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), both on the reallocation of profits of digitalized businesses (Pillar 1) and on the general reform of international corporate taxation (Pillar 2). The debate confirmed that an international solution on digital taxation was the best way forward, as it would prevent fragmentation and unilateral measures. The ministers acknowledged that the OECD was working against a tight deadline to reach a global consensus by the end of 2020, and many highlighted the importance of making good use of the current political momentum. The presidency concluded that it would continue attending international meetings on this issue. It will organise technical discussions in the council in order to prepare, as far as possible, negotiations taking place at the OECD and address member states' concerns.<sup>2493</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the French Tax Authority issued draft guidance on the scope and computation of the new digital services tax and the related compliance issues. Services subject to the tax include targeted online advertising, including the sale of user data; and online digital intermediation services

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<sup>2490</sup> The Russian Federal Tax Service held consultations with experts from tax administrations of BRICS countries, Federal Tax Service of Russia 29 May 2020. Access date: 1 June 2020.

[https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about\\_fts/inttax/9809930/](https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about_fts/inttax/9809930/)

<sup>2491</sup> EU-China: Commission and China hold first High-level Digital Dialogue. The European String 11 September 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://europeanstring.com/2020/09/11/eu-china-commission-and-china-hold-first-high-level-digital-dialogue/>

<sup>2492</sup> INSIGHT: France's Digital Services Tax Goes Ahead, Bloomberg Tax 29 July 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://news.bloombergtax.com/daily-tax-report-international/insight-frances-digital-services-tax-goes-ahead-1>

<sup>2493</sup> Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 21 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 21 Access date: 28 January 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/ecofin/2020/01/21/>

such as platforms and marketplaces. Each category has its own set of rules in terms of territoriality and computation of the ratio of French-deemed services (the French presence ratio).<sup>2494</sup>

France has made progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization both contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2, and implementing BEPS Action 1 VAT/GST recommendations.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 7 October 2019, the Ministry of Finance published Guidance Letters 2019/858190, 2019/0858465 and 2019/0858488 explaining the value-added tax (VAT) obligations for online marketplace facilitators. The Ministry of Finance reminds marketplace facilitators that they can be held liable under certain conditions for the unpaid VAT resulting from the delivery of items from entrepreneurs legally justified on the marketplace provided by them.<sup>2495</sup>

On 25 October 2019, the upper house of the German parliament accepted for consideration a bill to reduce bureaucratic burden for taxpayers. Among other things, the measure would exempt new businesses from monthly VAT invoicing obligations in the year of formation and the following year between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2026. The bill would further increase the VAT registration threshold for domestic companies.<sup>2496</sup>

On 21 January 2020, EU finance ministers had an exchange of views on tax challenges arising from digitalisation. They took stock of the progress achieved in the context of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), both on the reallocation of profits of digitalized businesses (Pillar 1) and on the general reform of international corporate taxation (Pillar 2). The debate confirmed that an international solution on digital taxation was the best way forward, as it would prevent fragmentation and unilateral measures. The ministers acknowledged that the OECD was working against a tight deadline to reach a global consensus by the end of 2020, and many highlighted the importance of making good use of the current political momentum. The presidency concluded that it would continue attending international meetings on this issue. It will organise technical discussions in the council in order to prepare, as far as possible, negotiations taking place at the OECD and address member states' concerns.<sup>2497</sup>

Germany has made progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization both contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2, and implementing BEPS Action 1 recommendations.

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<sup>2494</sup> France issues comprehensive draft guidance on digital services tax, the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (London) 16 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.step.org/news/france-issues-comprehensive-draft-guidance-digital-services-tax>

<sup>2495</sup> Inside Indirect Tax, KPMG (Washington) December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://tax.kpmg.us/content/dam/tax/en/taxwatch/pdfs/2019/inside-indirect-tax-december-2019.pdf>

<sup>2496</sup> Inside Indirect Tax, KPMG (Washington) December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://tax.kpmg.us/content/dam/tax/en/taxwatch/pdfs/2019/inside-indirect-tax-december-2019.pdf>

<sup>2497</sup> Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 21 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 21 Access date: 28 January 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/ecofin/2020/01/21/>

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment on taxation of digital economy regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 1 April 2020, so-called equalization levy was introduced in India. This approach to taxation of digital economy is one of the three options included into the possible ways to reform digital taxation according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The tax is 2 per cent and it is imposed on 1) online sale of goods owned by the e-commerce operator, 2) online provision of services provided by the ecommerce operator, 3) online sale of goods or provision of goods facilitated by the e-commerce operator (i.e., when the operator provides a platform for others to supply goods or provide services), 4) any combination of the above.<sup>2498</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the Finance Act for 2020 was released and it provided for: 1) a deferral of the definition of significant economic presence to 1 April 2022, with the expectation that the OECD will soon reach a consensus and provide an updated workplan for the digital economy; 2) the expansion of source rules to include income from advertisements that target Indian customers, income from the sale of data collected from India, and income from sale of goods and services using such data collected from India, which will take effect from 1 April 2021, although for attribution in relation to significant economic presence, the amendment will take effect from 1 April 2022.<sup>2499</sup>

On 27-28 May 2020, BRICS tax authorities meeting was held in a format of a video conference. As part of the discussion on taxation of the digital economy, the parties touched upon the distribution of residual (non-routine) profits of international groups of companies and taxation of revenues from electronic services. BRICS experts expressed their views on the prospects and potential perimeter of a mandatory mechanism for the prevention and resolution of tax disputes that may arise in the case of the so-called Unified Approach, a multilateral global project on taxation of profits of digital companies, developed under the auspices of the OECD.<sup>2500</sup>

India has implemented several domestic measures to address the tax challenges of the digitalization of the economy and actively participates in the OECD process.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied to comply with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 19-20 November 2019, tax officials and stakeholders from the Asia Pacific countries (including representatives of Indonesia) convened for a regional meeting on tax and digitalization co-hosted by

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<sup>2498</sup> India Issues Notification that New Digital Services Equalization Levy in Force, Orbitax (San Francisco). Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/India-Issues-Notification-that-18553>

<sup>2499</sup> Indian Finance Bill 2020, Government of India (Delhi) 1 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Finance\\_Bill.pdf](https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/doc/Finance_Bill.pdf)

<sup>2500</sup> The Russian Federal Tax Service held consultations with experts from tax administrations of BRICS countries, Federal Tax Service of Russia 29 May 2020. Access date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about\\_fts/inttax/9809930/](https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about_fts/inttax/9809930/)

the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the Philippines; the final statement of the meeting supports the application of simplification measures throughout the consideration of both the Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 proposals, as well as measures which promote certainty, and highlights the importance of inclusiveness in the process of international standard setting, of the prevention and resolution of double taxation and taxation disputes more generally.<sup>2501</sup>

In October-December 2019, as reported by OECD, Indonesia's officials and stakeholders provided per OECD's requests comments on the Secretariat's proposal for a "Unified Approach" under Pillar One<sup>2502</sup>, and on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Proposal under Pillar Two.<sup>2503</sup>

Indonesia actively participates in the OECD-led process on taxation of digital economy, but no domestic measures were registered yet.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied to comply with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 20 September 2019, the Italian Tax Agency, hosted a conference to discuss the challenges arising from taxation of the digital economy, the 2020 future BEPS project revision and on the European Union action plan on telematic collection of value-added tax. The conference favoured the exchange of opinions and the sharing of experiences among national officers and experts serving by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Commission.<sup>2504</sup>

On 27 December 2020, the Budget Law 2020 was published in the Official Gazette.<sup>2505</sup> According to the law, from 1 January 2020 a 3 per cent digital services tax (DST) is applied in Italy on gross revenue from advertising on a digital interface, multilateral digital interface that allows users to buy or sell goods and services, the transmission of user data generated from using a digital interface. The DST is applied to both resident and non-resident companies with total revenue in the prior year of at least EUR750 million and total revenue from digital services supplied in Italy of at least EUR5.5 million.<sup>2506</sup> If an agreement is implemented within the OECD, the Italian Digital Services Tax will be repealed and replaced with the international measures.

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<sup>2501</sup> Tax officials and stakeholders from Asia-Pacific meet in the Philippines to discuss proposals to address the tax challenges of the digitalisation of the economy, OECD 22 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/tax-officials-and-stakeholders-from-asia-pacific-philippines-to-discuss-proposals-to-address-tax-challenges-digitalisation-of-the-economy.htm>

<sup>2502</sup> Public comments received on the Secretariat Proposal for a "Unified Approach" under Pillar One, OECD 15 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-comments-received-on-the-secretariat-proposal-for-a-unified-approach-under-pillar-one.htm>

<sup>2503</sup> Public comments received on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Proposal under Pillar Two, OECD 3 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-comments-received-on-the-global-anti-base-erosion-globe-proposal-under-pillar-two.htm>

<sup>2504</sup> Diritto tributario transnazionale: momenti di riflessione sui progressi, Fisco Oggi 20 September 2019. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://www.fiscooggi.it/rubrica/attualita/articolo/diritto-tributario-transnazionale-momenti-riflessione-sui-progressi>

<sup>2505</sup> LEGGE 27 dicembre 2019, n. 160, the Official Gazette (Roma) 27 December 2019. Access Date 18 May 2020. <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2019/12/30/19G00165/sg>.

<sup>2506</sup> Taxation of the digitalized economy, KPMG (Amstelveen) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 18 May 2020. <https://tax.kpmg.us/content/dam/tax/en/pdfs/2019/digitalized-economy-taxation-developments-summary.pdf>.

Italy addressed tax challenges arising from digitalization by introducing a nationally levied tax.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on taxation of digital economy regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 19-20 November 2019, tax officials and stakeholders from the Asia Pacific countries (including representatives of Japan) convened for a regional meeting on tax and digitalization co-hosted by the Asian Development Bank in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in the Philippines; the final statement of the meeting supports the application of simplification measures throughout the consideration of both the Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 proposals, as well as measures which promote certainty, and highlights the importance of inclusiveness in the process of international standard setting, of the prevention and resolution of double taxation and taxation disputes more generally.<sup>2507</sup>

In October-December 2019, as reported by OECD, Japan's officials and stakeholders provided per OECD's requests comments on the Secretariat's proposal for a "Unified Approach" under Pillar One<sup>2508</sup>, and on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Proposal under Pillar Two.<sup>2509</sup>

On 12 December 2019, Japan's ruling coalition issued the document outlining the coalition's view on the OECD-led international efforts to update the international tax rules to address the digitalization of the economy and has asked the Japanese government to follow these principles in international negotiations.<sup>2510</sup> In particular, the document calls the Japanese government to play a leading role in building global consensus around new international tax rules and emphasizes that:

1. The objective of the negotiations should be to create a stable and predictable investment environment for companies, which means the solution must be agreed on timely, while uncoordinated unilateral tax measures will increase uncertainties for cross-border expansion of businesses and suppress legitimate business activities;
2. Any solution addressing digitalization of the economy should create a level playing field among businesses and contribute to maintaining and improving the international competitiveness of Japanese companies;
3. Any new rules should be reasonable and clearly defined to prevent unexpected effects on businesses;

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<sup>2507</sup> Tax officials and stakeholders from Asia-Pacific meet in the Philippines to discuss proposals to address the tax challenges of the digitalisation of the economy, OECD 22 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/tax-officials-and-stakeholders-from-asia-pacific-philippines-to-discuss-proposals-to-address-tax-challenges-digitalisation-of-the-economy.htm>

<sup>2508</sup> Public comments received on the Secretariat Proposal for a "Unified Approach" under Pillar One, OECD 15 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-comments-received-on-the-secretariat-proposal-for-a-unified-approach-under-pillar-one.htm>

<sup>2509</sup> Public comments received on the Global Anti-Base Erosion (GloBE) Proposal under Pillar Two, OECD 3 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/tax/beps/public-comments-received-on-the-global-anti-base-erosion-globe-proposal-under-pillar-two.htm>

<sup>2510</sup> Japan stakes out position in OECD-led international tax negotiations, MNE Tax 28 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://mnetax.com/japan-stakes-out-position-in-oecd-led-international-tax-negotiations-37476>

4. Any new rules should avoid excessive administrative burden on taxpayers and avoid double taxation, with a strong dispute prevention and resolution mechanisms;
5. The international tax update should address the corporate tax competition problem arising from the fact that the shift of profits related to intangible assets to tax havens has become increasingly easier, while small businesses and individuals do not have access to the same cross-border tax planning opportunities.

Japan has made progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization both contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2, and implementing BEPS Action 1 recommendations.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

#### **Korea: -1**

Korea has not complied with the commitment on addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 16 December 2019, the government announced the expansion of taxation on electronic services provided by foreign providers. The Finance Ministry plans to set up a task force to study the digital tax on advertising by global internet companies and draft relevant tax measures.<sup>2511</sup>

On 20 January 2020, the government announced its intention to impose a 20 per cent tax on cryptocurrencies. The ordering to review taxation plan had been given to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.<sup>2512</sup>

Korea demonstrates its intention to tackle the issues of taxation arising from digitalization in accordance with the BEPS Action 1. However, no specific action has been fully implemented to the moment.<sup>2513</sup>

Thus, Korea receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 31 October 2019, Mexico's Congress approved a tax legislative package for 2020, which includes amendments to the value-added tax (VAT) law among others. Concerning VAT, the legislation includes measures that aim to increase the efficiency of VAT collection, and clarify that revenue from certain digital or e-commerce services provided to Mexican residents from abroad, by entities not having an establishment in Mexico, will be subject to VAT in Mexico. In such situations, the test will be whether the recipient of the services is a resident of Mexico. The new measures add a set of registration and reporting obligations for foreigners providing these types of services, as well as rules

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<sup>2511</sup> Taxation of the digitalized economy, KPMG 20 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020.

<https://tax.kpmg.us/content/dam/tax/en/pdfs/2019/digitalized-economy-taxation-developments-summary.pdf>

<sup>2512</sup> S. Korea considering imposing 20% tax on cryptocurrencies, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200120000204&np=61&mp=7>

<sup>2513</sup> Websites of Korean government, tax authority, OECD as well as open sources were searched.

for calculating VAT derived from the digital operations. Additionally, the concept of digital intermediation services (that is, services conducted by third parties) is added to the VAT law.<sup>2514</sup>

Mexico has taken measures to address the tax challenges of digitalization described in BEPS Action 1 recommendations. However, no facts of Russia's actions to address tax challenges arising from digitalization by contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2 within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 30 September 2019, the Russian Ministry of Finance published the General Guidelines for Budget, Tax and Customs Tariff Policy for 2020 and the Planning Period of 2021 and 2022. The Guidelines propose a number of tax initiatives to promote a competitive environment and stable fiscal conditions. These include changes in tax law, including the introduction of a tax on digital corporations aimed to ensure that to ensure that their profits are taxed in the jurisdiction of their consumers' location.<sup>2515</sup>

On 27-28 May 2020, BRICS tax authorities meeting was held in a format of a video conference. As part of the discussion on taxation of the digital economy, the parties touched upon the distribution of residual (non-routine) profits of international groups of companies and taxation of revenues from electronic services. BRICS experts expressed their views on the prospects and potential perimeter of a mandatory mechanism for the prevention and resolution of tax disputes that may arise in the case of the so-called Unified Approach, a multilateral global project on taxation of profits of digital companies, developed under the auspices of the OECD.<sup>2516</sup>

Russia has taken part in BRICS discussion of digital economy taxation. Also several VAT measures were implemented in accordance with BEPS Action 1 recommendations during the compliance period.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partly complied with the commitment on addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

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<sup>2514</sup> Mexico: Tax reform 2020, VAT on services provided from digital platforms, KPMG (Washington) 5 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://home.kpmg/us/en/home/insights/2019/11/tmf-mexico-tax-reform-2020-vat-services-digital-platforms.html>

<sup>2515</sup> General Guidelines for Budget, Tax and Customs Tariff Policy for 2020 and the Planning Period of 2021 and 2022, Ministry of Finance of Russia 30 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.minfin.ru/common/upload/library/2019/10/main/ONBNiITP\\_2020-2022.pdf](https://www.minfin.ru/common/upload/library/2019/10/main/ONBNiITP_2020-2022.pdf).

<sup>2516</sup> The Russian Federal Tax Service held consultations with experts from tax administrations of BRICS countries, Federal Tax Service of Russia 29 May 2020. Access date: 1 June 2020. [https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about\\_fts/inttax/9809930/](https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about_fts/inttax/9809930/)

As of October 2020, Saudi Arabia is an associate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Steering Group of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS.<sup>2517</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Saudi General Authority of Zakat and Tax issued the guidelines on taxation of digital economy. Through this guideline, Saudi Government aims to provide additional clarification on the application of value-added tax in the context of Digital Economy.<sup>2518</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken measures to address the tax challenges of digitalization described in BEPS Action 1 recommendations. However, no facts of Russia's actions to address tax challenges arising from digitalization by contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2 within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partly complied with the commitment on addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 12 March 2020, South Africa participated in African Union Policy Dialogue on the Taxation of the Digital Economy. The Policy Dialogue is being held on the backdrop of the new proposals by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Inclusive Framework to develop a global consensus-based solution to the tax challenges arising out of the digitalisation of the economy. South Africa was presented on the session dedicated to taxing rights and digitalisation of the economy and their Implications for Africa.<sup>2519</sup>

On 27-28 May 2020, BRICS tax authorities meeting was held in a format of a video conference. As part of the discussion on taxation of the digital economy, the parties touched upon the distribution of residual (non-routine) profits of international groups of companies and taxation of revenues from electronic services. BRICS experts expressed their views on the prospects and potential perimeter of a mandatory mechanism for the prevention and resolution of tax disputes that may arise in the case of the so-called Unified Approach, a multilateral global project on taxation of profits of digital companies, developed under the auspices of the OECD.<sup>2520</sup>

On 27 August 2020, South African Ministry of Finance issued a statement following the fourth African Tax Administration Forum High-level Tax Policy Dialogue. This includes that South Africa has opted not to introduce any unilateral measures to deal with the direct tax treatment of the challenges of the

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<sup>2517</sup> Composition of the Steering Group of the Inclusive Framework on BEPS, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, January 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<sup>2518</sup> Digital Economy, General Authority of Zakat and Tax 30 June 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020.  
<https://gazt.gov.sa/en/HelpCenter/guidelines/Documents/Digital%20Economy.pdf>

<sup>2519</sup> AFRICAN UNION POLICY DIALOGUE ON THE TAXATION OF THE DIGITAL ECONOMY, African Union 12 March 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. [https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/38223-wd-draft\\_concept\\_note\\_on\\_taxation\\_of\\_the\\_digital\\_economy-22012020.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/newsevents/workingdocuments/38223-wd-draft_concept_note_on_taxation_of_the_digital_economy-22012020.pdf)

<sup>2520</sup> The Russian Federal Tax Service held consultations with experts from tax administrations of BRICS countries, Federal Tax Service of Russia 29 May 2020. Access date: 1 June 2020.  
[https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about\\_fts/inttax/9809930/](https://www.nalog.ru/rn77/about_fts/inttax/9809930/)



digital economy, for now, but rather will wait for multilateral consensus or solutions to be published in the final report on tax challenges arising from digitalization, which is due in 2020.<sup>2521</sup>

South Africa has not introduced any internal measures, but participated in international process on digital economy taxation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 1 March 2020, the Law on Digital Service Tax and Amendment of Certain Laws and the Decree Law entered into force in Turkey. The digital service tax includes as follows:

- All kinds of advertisement services provided to users in digital platform,
- Digital services provided any audible, visual or digital content and such content to be listened, watched or recorded via electronic devices,
- Providing and operating digital interface which allows users to interact with others, including for the delivery of goods or services between users.<sup>2522</sup>

The digital service tax in Turkey is 7.5 per cent.<sup>2523</sup>

Turkey has taken measures to address the tax challenges of digitalization described in BEPS Action 1 recommendations. However, no facts of Turkey's actions to address tax challenges arising from digitalization by contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2 within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development have been registered during the compliance period.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

In July 2019, the UK government reaffirmed its strong support to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) process and welcomed the steps to hold public consultations on BEPS Action 1 and the agreement to a without prejudice program of work to take forward a detailed

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<sup>2521</sup> South Africa Issues Statement on Taxation in the Digitalised Economy, Orbitax 2020. Access date: 2 october 2020. <https://www.orbitax.com/news/archive.php/South-Africa-Issues-Statement--43378>

<sup>2522</sup> Turkey: Digital Service Tax Enters into Force On 1 March 2020 11 February 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Tax/892420/Digital-Service-Tax-Enters-Into-Force-On-1-March-2020>

<sup>2523</sup> Turkey: Digital Service Tax Enters into Force On 1 March 2020 11 February 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Tax/892420/Digital-Service-Tax-Enters-Into-Force-On-1-March-2020>

examination of the different proposals for reform. The government also published some criteria for the agreement to be reached within the OECD, so it takes into account the UK's interests.<sup>2524</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the UK introduced the digital services tax. The new 2 per cent tax is imposed on the revenues of search engines, social media services and online marketplaces which derive value from UK users. The tax originates from the OECD BEPS project, specifically, Action 1. If an agreement is reached within the OECD, the UK Digital Services Tax will be repealed and replaced with the international measures. At present, the UK government plans to review the tax again in 2025.<sup>2525</sup>

The UK has made progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization both contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2, and implementing BEPS Action 1 recommendations for value added tax and goods and services tax.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **United States: -1**

The United States has failed to comply with the commitment on international taxation regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 12 June 2020, the United States Treasury Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin in a letter addressed to the finance ministers of France, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom, wrote that the United States is calling upon the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to “pause discussions of Pillar 1,” and that the United States remains opposed to the idea of imposition of gross basis digital services taxes.<sup>2526</sup>

The United States did not make any progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization.<sup>2527</sup>

Thus, it receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization regarding base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

On 28 October 2019, the Presidency of the European Union invited the Economic and Financial Affairs Council to discuss the state of play at the EU level as well as the way forward in light of the dynamic nature of the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The council was invited to examine initial findings on EU law compatibility of the solutions discussed at OECD level, building on the work done by the Commission on this, work on

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<sup>2524</sup> Digital Services Tax: response to the consultation, HM Treasury July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/816389/DST\\_response\\_document\\_web.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/816389/DST_response_document_web.pdf).

<sup>2525</sup> Introduction of the Digital Services Tax, UK Government 11 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/introduction-of-the-digital-services-tax>.

<sup>2526</sup> Letter by Steven T. Mnuchin, US Department of Treasury (Washington) 12 June 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://assets.kpmg/content/dam/kpmg/us/pdf/2020/06/tnf-mnuchin-oecd-jun19-2020.PDF>.

<sup>2527</sup> Websites of Internal Revenue Service, US government, OECD, Consulting firms (E&Y, KPMG, Deloitte) as well as open sources were used.

impact analyses should continue as a priority and to that end member states should cooperate with the European Commission to the extent possible.<sup>2528</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the European Commission's Directorate General for Taxation and Customs organized an event on "VAT in the Digital Age" in Brussels, Belgium. This event brought together stakeholders working in the field of value-added tax (VAT) to reflect on the opportunities and challenges that new technologies bring in the area of VAT. In particular, the potential of using advanced technologies such as blockchain in the VAT area will be discussed. The seminar also provided a chance to share recent experiences from EU member states on how they use digital solutions for VAT reporting, collecting and fraud detection.<sup>2529</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European Parliament issued resolution on fair taxation in a digitalised and globalised economy: BEPS 2.0. In the resolution it called on each member state and the European Commission to make their positions publicly known on the OECD Secretariat's proposals for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, called on the European Commission and the member states to agree on a joint, ambitious EU position for the OECD negotiations and called on the European Commission and the Council to prepare the legal base for incorporating the outcome of an international deal into EU law and to present a legislative proposal as soon as possible.<sup>2530</sup>

On 21 January 2020, finance ministers had an exchange of views on tax challenges arising from digitalisation. They took stock of the progress achieved in the context of the OECD, both on the reallocation of profits of digitalized businesses (Pillar 1) and on the general reform of international corporate taxation (Pillar 2). The debate confirmed that an international solution on digital taxation was the best way forward, as it would prevent fragmentation and unilateral measures. Ministers acknowledged that the OECD was working against a tight deadline to reach a global consensus by the end of 2020, and many highlighted the importance of making good use of the current political momentum. The presidency concluded that it would continue attending international meetings on this issue. It will organise technical discussions in the council in order to prepare, as far as possible, negotiations taking place at the OECD and address member states' concerns.<sup>2531</sup>

The EU has made progress in addressing tax challenges arising from digitalization both contributing to the development of a consensus-based solution with a final report by 2020 on Pillars 1 and 2, and implementing BEPS Action 1 recommendations.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>2528</sup> Note from Presidency Permanent Representatives Committee/Council, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 28 October 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-13405-2019-INIT/en/pdf>

<sup>2529</sup> VAT in the Digital Age, European Commission (Brussels) 6 December. Access date: 19 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/events/vat-digital-age\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/events/vat-digital-age_en)

<sup>2530</sup> European Parliament resolution of 18 December 2019 on fair taxation in a digitalised and globalised economy: BEPS 2.0, European Parliament (Strasbourg) 18 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0102\\_EN.html](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2019-0102_EN.html)

<sup>2531</sup> Economic and Financial Affairs Council, 21 January 2020, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 21 Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/ecofin/2020/01/21/>

## 8. Crime and Corruption: Cyber Resilience

“We also continue to step up efforts to enhance cyber resilience.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.80 (90%)		

### Background

The G20 has been dealing with issues relating to crime and corruption since the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit when members committed to cope with tax heavens, money laundering, corruption, terrorist financing and prudential standards.<sup>2532</sup> At the next summit in Toronto in 2010, the G20 committed to fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).<sup>2533</sup> The same year the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) was established.<sup>2534</sup> In 2010 in Seoul, the G20 endorsed the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan aimed at ratification and implementation of the UNCAC, fight against international bribery, money laundering prevention and the detection of transfers of proceeds of crime.<sup>2535</sup>

<sup>2532</sup> G20 Leaders’ Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit. Access date: 22 December 2019.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2009pittsburgh/G20%20Leaders%20Statement.pdf>

<sup>2533</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20_declaration_en.pdf)

<sup>2534</sup> The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010toronto/g20_declaration_en.pdf)

<sup>2535</sup> Annex III. The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan. Access date: 22 December 2019.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2010%20Korea/g20seoul-consensus.pdf>

In 2012, the G20 approved the G20 principles for denying entry of corrupt officials, presented by the ACWG.<sup>2536</sup> At Los Cabos, G20 leaders also reiterated the necessity to implement the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan and UNCAC.<sup>2537</sup>

In 2013 at St. Petersburg, the G20 approved the High-Level Principles on Mutual Legal Assistance, the Guiding Principles on Enforcement of the Foreign Bribery Offence and the Guiding Principles to combat Solicitation.<sup>2538</sup> In 2014 at Brisbane, these principles were supplemented by the G20 High Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency.<sup>2539</sup>

In 2015 at Antalya three documents dealing with crime and corruption were approved by the G20: the G20 High-Level Principles on Integrity and Transparency in the Private Sector, G20 Anti-Corruption Open Data Principles and the G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement.<sup>2540</sup> The following year, at the Hangzhou Summit in 2016, the G20 endorsed the G20 High Level Principles on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption and Asset Recovery.<sup>2541</sup>

At Hamburg in 2017, G20 members agreed on four sets of High Level Principles. These four includes the High Level Principles on Organizing Against Corruption, the High Level Principles on the Liability of Legal Persons for Corruption, the High Level on Countering Corruption in Customs, and the High Level Principles on Combatting Corruption Related to Illegal Trade in Wildlife and Wildlife Products.<sup>2542</sup>

At Buenos Aires in 2018, G20 leaders agreed on the new Action Plan 2019–2021 and endorsed the Principles on Preventing Corruption and Ensuring Integrity in State-Owned Enterprises and on Preventing and Managing Conflicts of Interest in the Public Sector.<sup>2543</sup> In addition, the leaders committed to further explore “the links between corruption and other economic crimes and ways to tackle them, including through cooperation on the return of persons sought for such offences and stolen assets, consistent with international obligations and domestic legal systems.”<sup>2544</sup>

In 2019 at Osaka, G20 leaders addressed cyber resilience for the first time in terms of the fight against corruption. They pledged to “step up efforts to enhance cyber resilience” following work by the Financial Stability Board (FSB) on the implications of decentralized financial technologies.<sup>2545</sup>

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<sup>2536</sup> G20 Los Cabos Leaders’ Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2012loscabos/G20%20Leaders%20Declaration%20-%20Los%20Cabos%2018-19%20June%202012.pdf>

<sup>2537</sup> G20 Los Cabos Leaders’ Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2012loscabos/G20%20Leaders%20Declaration%20-%20Los%20Cabos%2018-19%20June%202012.pdf>

<sup>2538</sup> G20 St. Petersburg Leaders’ Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019. <http://en.g20russia.ru/load/782795034>

<sup>2539</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Brisbane Summit. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2014brisbane/G20%20Leaders%E2%80%99%20Communiq%C3%A9%20Brisbane%20Summit,%2015-16%20November%202014.pdf>

<sup>2540</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya Summit. Access date: 22 December 2019.

<https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2015Antalya/000111117.pdf>

<sup>2541</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou Summit. Access date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2016Hangzhou/G20%20Leaders%E2%80%99%20Communique%20Hangzhou%20Summit.pdf>

<sup>2542</sup> G20 Leaders’ Hamburg Summit Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders\\_%20communiq%C3%A9.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2017hamburg/G20%20Hamburg%20leaders_%20communiq%C3%A9.pdf)

<sup>2543</sup> G20 Leaders’ Buenos Aires Summit Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos\\_aires\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf)

<sup>2544</sup> G20 Leaders’ Buenos Aires Summit Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019.

[https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos\\_aires\\_leaders\\_declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/media/g20/2018buenosaires/buenos_aires_leaders_declaration.pdf)

<sup>2545</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration. Access date: 22 December 2019. [https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News\\_ciir/Project/G20\\_new\\_downloadings/FINAL\\_G20\\_Osaka\\_Leaders\\_Declaration.pdf](https://www.ranepa.ru/images/News_ciir/Project/G20_new_downloadings/FINAL_G20_Osaka_Leaders_Declaration.pdf)

## Commitment Features

The main concept under this commitment is “cyber resilience.” In the Osaka Declaration the G20 leaders do not give a clear definition of this term. A comprehensive guide on notions relating to the cyber resilience (including the term “cyber resilience” itself) was developed by the FSB in 2018 following the request from the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors.<sup>2546</sup> Thus, the term “cyber resilience” refers to: “The ability of an organisation to continue to carry out its mission by anticipating and adapting to cyber threats and other relevant changes in the environment and by withstanding, containing and rapidly recovering from cyber incidents.”<sup>2547</sup>

The related concept of “cyber threats” refers to “a circumstance with the potential to exploit one or more vulnerabilities that adversely affects cyber security.”<sup>2548</sup>

The definition of “cyber incidents” means “a cyber event that: i. jeopardizes the cyber security of an information system or the information the system processes, stores or transmits; or ii. violates the security policies, security procedures or acceptable use policies, whether resulting from malicious activity or not.”<sup>2549</sup> Thus, a “cyber event” implies “any observable occurrence in an information system. Cyber events sometimes provide indication that a cyber incident is occurring.”<sup>2550</sup> Another notion mentioned here is the “information system” that is a “set of applications, services, information technology assets or other information-handling components, which includes the operating environment.”<sup>2551</sup>

“Vulnerability” implies “a weakness, susceptibility or flaw of an asset or control that can be exploited by one or more threats.”<sup>2552</sup>

Finally, the term “asset” in this context refers to “something of either tangible or intangible value that is worth protecting, including people, information, infrastructure, finances and reputation.”<sup>2553</sup>

The G20 refers to the work done by the FSB on implications of the possible implications of decentralized financial technologies in the commitment’s text as well as the recommendation presented by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). However, the FATF recommendations on money laundering and terrorist financing prevention does not refer to “cyber resilience” under the FSB’s definition.

The FSB noted that widening use of decentralized financial technologies could affect financial stability. It specified three dimensions affected by these technologies: risk taking, decision making and record keeping. It said:

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<sup>2546</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2547</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2548</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2549</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2550</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2551</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2552</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

<sup>2553</sup> Cyber Lexicon, Financial Stability Board, 18 November 2018. Access date: 08 April 2020. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P121118-1.pdf>

There are a number of different types of decentralization in financial services. These vary in the degree to which they affect different segments of financial services, but generally take three broad forms:

- Decentralisation of decision-making. This involves a move away from a single trusted financial intermediary or infrastructure towards systems in which a broad set of users is able to make decisions about whether and how to undertake financial transactions.
- Decentralisation of risk-taking. This involves the shift away from the retention of risk (e.g., credit and liquidity risk) on the balance sheets of individual traditional financial intermediaries towards more direct matching of individual users and providers of financial services.
- Decentralisation of record-keeping. This involves a move away from centrally held data and records, towards systems in which the ability to store and access data is extended across broader consortia of users. Verification of such data and records may also be more distributed, for example via consensus mechanisms.<sup>2554</sup>

These forms of decentralization could raise new risks to financial stability:

- New forms of concentration risks may arise in what might appear to be decentralised systems. In addition to using similar technology, many activities in larger DLT [digital ledger technology] systems (e.g., ownership of the assets, control over source code, operation of the infrastructure, crypto-assets mining and code development) remain concentrated in a relatively small set of persons (e.g., software developers) or entities.
- Greater procyclicality could emerge, particularly in the supply of credit. For example, peer-to-peer (P2P) matching platforms may exhibit larger and sharper swings in their provision of credit than existing financial institutions. This may apply particularly where lending decisions are automated and/or rely on novel data or models whose performance remains untested in a downturn.
- Diffused or unclear responsibility and accountability may arise where the allocation of liability in a more decentralised financial system may be unclear. Such legal risk may be particularly problematic in systems that are permissionless or where participants remain anonymous, and around liabilities arising from smart contracts.
- Recovery and resolution challenges may arise, particularly where current approaches to the recovery and resolution of financial institutions are reliant on centralised recordkeeping and claims on market participants whose identity and location is known.<sup>2555</sup>

The FSB also identifies three areas for further assessment:

- Financial regulation and regulatory approaches: for example, by considering the appropriateness, applicability and effectiveness of current financial regulations for financial businesses and activities based on decentralised financial technologies, and exploring ways to address potential regulatory gaps and financial stability concerns. Some jurisdictions may consider new ways of administering or enforcing regulation. This might include embedding restrictions in computer code, the implications of which have yet to be explored under legal theory.

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<sup>2554</sup> Decentralised financial technologies: Report on financial stability, regulatory and governance implications, Financial Stability Board, 6 June 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P060619.pdf>

<sup>2555</sup> Decentralised financial technologies: Report on financial stability, regulatory and governance implications, Financial Stability Board, 6 June 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P060619.pdf>

- Financial supervision: for example, by assessing how decentralised financial technologies could lead to gaps or overlaps in supervisory systems, and updating or modifying data reporting processes accordingly (such as with respect to supervising activities on distributed ledgers). New data could also provide supervisors with greater and timelier insights into potential systemic risks, through the real-time tracking of asset ownership and shifting of associated risks. That said, acquiring and analysing such data may prove to be resource intensive for both market participants and regulators.
- The proportional and consistent application of regulation of decentralised financial technologies: for example, by continuing to regulate decentralised financial technologies in a manner proportional to the risks they pose. In places, the application of decentralised financial technologies may present challenges to the technology-neutral approach to regulation taken by some authorities.<sup>2556</sup>

Thus, to achieve full compliance with the commitment on cyber resilience in financial matters, a G20 member should take actions in all three areas mentioned above.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member takes no action to improve cyber resilience in finance in any of three areas: financial regulation and regulatory approaches; financial supervision; or the application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies.
0	G20 member take actions to improve cyber resilience in finance in ONE or TWO of three areas: financial regulation and regulatory approaches; financial supervision; or the application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies.
+1	G20 member take actions in ALL three areas to improve cyber resilience in finance: financial regulation and regulatory approaches; financial supervision; and the application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 9 January 2020, the Banco Central de la República Argentina (BCRA) released the instruction to fintech start-ups. Specifically, it instructed these startups to place their users' money in traditional banks so it may be under constant supervision by the corresponding supervising body. This regulation has a three-pronged purpose. First, it wants to protect users by supervising that startups don't mishandle a person's funds. Second, it mitigates tax evasions. And third, it ensures a level playing field between banking institutions and fintechs.<sup>2557</sup>

On 29 April 2020, BCRA published Cyber Security Guidelines for the Financial Ecosystem. The guidelines seek to help organizations to set and include cyber security and cyber resilience into their strategic planning. The guidelines on cyber security include cyber security strategy and framework, governance principles, risk and control assessment, monitoring, response, recovery, information sharing, continuous learning. These guidelines are expected to be adopted by all institutions subject to BCRA's regulation in order to build a financial ecosystem committed to cyber security. In addition to

<sup>2556</sup> Decentralised financial technologies: Report on financial stability, regulatory and governance implications, Financial Stability Board, 6 June 2019. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <https://www.fsb.org/wp-content/uploads/P060619.pdf>

<sup>2557</sup> Argentina's government is honing in on fintechs, Contxto 21 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.contxto.com/en/argentina/argentina-government-honing-fintechs/>



these principles, the BCRA has uploaded the Cyber Lexicon, a document containing definitions so that everyone involved in cyber security may share the same language.<sup>2558</sup>

Argentina has taken actions in all three areas to improve cyber resilience in finance.

Therefore it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 25 November 2019, the Minister for Home Affairs Peter Dutton announced the creation of the 2020 Cyber Security Strategy Industry Advisory Panel. The Panel was to provide strategic advice on the development of the 2020 Strategy to replace the 2016 Cyber Security Strategy.<sup>2559</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission issued a report Cyber resilience of firms in Australia's financial markets: 2018–19. The report provided an overview of the Commission's cyber resilience capabilities. According to the report "The cyber resilience of firms operating in Australia's markets has improved" since the publication of the previous edition, "with all firms recognising cyber risk as a strategic, organisation-wide issue that is attracting increasing investment." The report's purpose was also to identify new and emerging trends and challenges.<sup>2560</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the Australian government released Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020.<sup>2561</sup> The strategy provides for the following actions:

- Protecting and actively defending the critical infrastructure that all Australians rely on, including cyber security obligations for owners and operators.
- New ways to investigate and shut down cyber crime, including on the dark web.
- Stronger defences for Government networks and data.
- Greater collaboration to build Australia's cyber skills pipeline.
- Increased situational awareness and improved sharing of threat information.
- Stronger partnerships with industry through the Joint Cyber Security Centre program.
- Advice for small and medium enterprises to increase their cyber resilience.
- Clear guidance for businesses and consumers about securing Internet of Things devices.

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<sup>2558</sup> BCRA Cyber Security Guidelines for the Financial Ecosystem, Central Bank of Argentina 29 April 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <http://www.bcra.gob.ar/Noticias/cyberseguridad-ecosistema-financiero-i.asp>

<sup>2559</sup> Industry Panel meets to drive 2020 Cyber Security Strategy forward, Ministry of Home Affairs (Canberra) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 17 May 2019. <https://minister.homeaffairs.gov.au/peterdutton/Pages/Industry-Panel-meets-to-drive-2020-Cyber-Security-Strategy-forward.aspx>.

<sup>2560</sup> 19-362MR ASIC reports on cyber resilience assessments of financial markets firms, Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Canberra) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 17 May 2019. <https://asic.gov.au/about-asic/news-centre/find-a-media-release/2019-releases/19-362mr-asic-reports-on-cyber-resilience-assessments-of-financial-markets-firms/>.

<sup>2561</sup> Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020, Ministry of Home Affairs (Canberra) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/cyber-security/strategy>.

- 24/7 cyber security advice hotline for SMEs and families.
- Improved community awareness of cyber security threats.

The government plans to invest AUD1.67 billion over 10 years in its implementation.<sup>2562</sup>

During the monitoring period Australia took action in all three areas of cyber resilience in finance.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 5 December 2019, the Central Bank of Brazil (BCB) put public regulation proposals for open banking in the country under public consultation. The circular and resolution proposals intend to define, among other aspects, the minimum scope of participating institutions and data and services covered by open banking, as well as the requirements for sharing, responsibilities, the convention between the participants and the implementation schedule. Open banking consists of the standardized sharing of data and services by opening and integrating information systems platforms and infrastructures, using a dedicated interface for this purpose, by financial institutions and other institutions authorized to operate by the BCB.<sup>2563</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the Laboratory of Financial and Technological Innovations, developed by the Central Bank, announced launch of 17 new projects for innovation in the National Financial System (SFN). The 2019 edition selected 20 proposals and 17 completed the prototype development cycle. The resulting projects include blockchain technologies, artificial intelligence, payment models and new application models for technologies already established in the market.<sup>2564</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the BCB announced its BC# Agenda which combines activities in three major areas: instant payment, open banking and fintech. One of the focuses of the BC# Agenda is the adaptation of the SFN and the Brazilian Payment System to the modern technologies currently present in the sector. Innovation, interoperability and immediacy are the watchwords in the actions of the platform, which deals with the development and implementation of new and disruptive systems. The technological infrastructures necessary for the operationalization of the systems are being developed. The issue has also been debated with market and consumer representatives. The launch of the first phase of three phases is scheduled for next November.<sup>2565</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the National Cybersecurity Strategy (E-Cyber) was approved by Decree 10.222. The idea of developing E-Cyber was born from the need for the country to modify, with the greatest possible urgency, the current Brazilian Cybersecurity scenario, characterized by the following aspects: increasing cyber threats; increasing rates of cybercrime, good cybersecurity initiatives, however fragmented, lack of macro-political and strategic alignment in cybersecurity actions; and low maturity

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<sup>2562</sup> Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020, Ministry of Home Affairs (Canberra) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/cyber-security-subsite/files/cyber-security-strategy-2020.pdf>.

<sup>2563</sup> BC põe em consulta pública regras para funcionamento do Open Banking, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/392/noticia>

<sup>2564</sup> LIFT leva à criação de 17 novos projetos para inovação no SFN, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 3 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/401/noticia>

<sup>2565</sup> Agenda BC# reforça ações de inovação no Sistema Financeiro Nacional, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasilia) 5 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/409/noticia>

of the society in cybersecurity. One of the goals of the strategy is the reduction of financial losses for citizens and national institutions, by increasing the culture in cybersecurity.<sup>2566</sup>

On 11 February 2020, the BCB participated in the world-wide Safe Internet Day and implemented public information campaign for the citizens to raise their awareness about risks in digital finance.<sup>2567</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the BCB created a working group to propose open banking governance in Brazil. With the implementation of open banking, the entire financial market will operate based on a standardized technological model that will allow universal communication and data sharing between institutions. It will increase competition and expand the offer of financial products and services.<sup>2568</sup>

On 5 March 2020, testing of PIX's technological infrastructures, Brazil's instant payment system, started. Participating institutions are already testing the functionality of the addressing base, an infrastructure that will allow payment to be made in a more practical way, with the BCB. Communication between participants will take place in a secure environment using digital certificates for encryption and authentication. The National Financial System Network, which will be used to transmit payment orders, guarantees an adequate level of isolation to the most critical elements of the system.<sup>2569</sup>

Brazil has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Therefore it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 27 June 2020, the Bank of Canada announced the launch of a public-private partnership to strengthen the resilience of Canada's financial sector in the face of risks to business operations, including cyber incidents. The Canadian Financial Sector Resiliency Group (CFRG) will be responsible for coordinating a sector-wide response to systemic-level operational incidents. CFRG will also support ongoing resiliency initiatives, such as regular crisis simulation and benchmarking exercises. These efforts will reduce risk and help ensure a robust recovery in the event of an incident.<sup>2570</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and the Bank of Canada announced that they will be launching a BIS Innovation Hub centre to advance fintech innovation within the central banking community. The centre will open in Toronto within two years and is one of four

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<sup>2566</sup> Estratégia Nacional de Segurança Cibernética / E-Ciber, Departamento de Segurança da Informação Gabinete De Segurança Institucional Da Presidência Da República (Brasília) 11 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://dsic.planalto.gov.br/noticias/estrategia-nacional-de-seguranca-cibernetica-e-ciber>

<sup>2567</sup> Dia da Internet Segura: confira dicas para se proteger de frauds, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasília) 5 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/412/noticia>

<sup>2568</sup> Banco Central cria Grupo de Trabalho para propor governança do Open Banking no Brasil, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasília) 2 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/415/noticia>

<sup>2569</sup> BC testa infraestrutura tecnológica do PIX, Central Bank of Brazil (Brasília) 5 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.bcb.gov.br/detalhenoticia/419/noticia>

<sup>2570</sup> Bank of Canada announces partnership to improve resilience in financial sector, bank of Canada 27 June 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2019/06/bank-of-canada-announces-partnership-improve-resilience-financial-sector/>

locations scheduled to open in North America and Europe. This partnership will advance the Bank's understanding of the digital economy and the technological transformation of financial services.<sup>2571</sup>

On 10 August 2020, Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem designated Interac e-Transfer as a prominent payment system under the Payment Clearing and Settlement Act. This brings bank oversight to this payment system and ensures it remains a safe, viable and effective method of payment for Canadians. The bank regularly monitors the evolution of new and existing payment systems to determine whether they warrant oversight because of their potential to cause systemic or payment system risk. Designating Interac e-Transfer as a prominent payment system means it must adhere to the Bank's risk management standards, including having risk controls in place to ensure continued resilience.<sup>2572</sup>

On 9 October 2020, seven central banks, including the Bank of Canada, and the BIS released a report assessing the feasibility of publicly available CBDCs in helping central banks deliver their public policy objectives. Report outlines foundational principles and core features of a CBDC, but does not give an opinion on whether to issue. The group has identified the core features of any future CBDC system, which must be: resilient and secure to maintain operational integrity, convenient and available at very low or no cost to end users, underpinned by appropriate standards and a clear legal framework, have an appropriate role for the private sector, as well as promoting competition and innovation.<sup>2573</sup>

During the monitoring period Canada took action in all three areas of cyber resilience in finance.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 26 October 2019, China approved its first national law on encryption. The regulation came into force on the 1 January 2020. It broadens the current regulatory scope of encryption, liberalizes commercial encryption at national-law level and proposes a market-oriented regulatory regime for the commercial encryption industry.<sup>2574</sup>

On 19-20 December 2019, the 16th China International Finance Forum was held in Shanghai. The participants discussed urgent topics, including financial security risk prevention. The event was co-hosted by the main China's financial regulation authorities, major banks and local municipalities.<sup>2575</sup>

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<sup>2571</sup> Bank of Canada partners with the Bank for International Settlements to launch innovation centre, Bank of Canada 30 June 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/06/bank-canada-partners-bank-international-settlements-launch-innovation-centre/>

<sup>2572</sup> Bank of Canada designates Interac e-Transfer as a prominent payment system, Bank of Canada 10 August 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/08/interac-e-transfer-prominent-payment-system/>

<sup>2573</sup> Central banks and BIS publish first central bank digital currency (CBDC) report laying out key requirements, Bank of Canada 9 October 2020. Access date: 12 October 2020. <https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/10/central-banks-and-bis-publish-first-central-bank-digital-currency-cbdc-report/>

<sup>2574</sup> China Cybersecurity and Data Protection: China publishes first law on encryption, Lexology (London) 12 November 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=53282dfc-c7f6-4cef-8de6-8f180fed8b31>

<sup>2575</sup> The 16<sup>th</sup> China International Finance Forum. Access date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.ciff.org.cn/eng/>

On 23 February 2020, the People's Bank of China issued the financial distributed ledger technology security specification (JR/T 0184-2020). New regulation specifies the security system of the mentioned technology including basic hardware and software, cryptographic algorithms, etc.<sup>2576</sup>

On 22 July 2020, China's Central Bank published a set of rules for evaluation of blockchain finance applications. New rules are said to provide regulatory oversight using three basic standards bordering on technical, performance, and security.<sup>2577</sup>

China is taking steps towards consistent application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies, but no actions aimed at improvement of financial regulation and financial supervision have been found.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 22 November 2019, French Government finalised the regulatory framework governing applications of blockchains to financial services, extending it to digital asset service providers (DASPs). The framework covers regulatory, fiscal and accounting aspects alike.<sup>2578</sup>

On 26 December 2019, the French Financial Markets Authority published new regulations concerning the licensing of digital assets providers. Licensed providers are required to have professional indemnity insurance or a minimum amount of reserve funds, at least one effective senior manager, resilient information technology systems, an internal control system, a claims handling procedure, an organization enabling it to avoid conflicts of interests and procedures to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing.<sup>2579</sup>

On 14 November 2019, the French government signed a three-year cybersecurity pact with eight major national companies to step up security arrangements amid growing number of cybersecurity attacks.<sup>2580</sup>

France has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

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<sup>2576</sup> Financial distributed ledger technology security specification, China legislation standard (Beijing) 23 February 2020. Access date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.cnstandards.net/index.php/financial-distributed-ledger-technology-security-specification/>

<sup>2577</sup> The central bank issues evaluation rules for blockchain financial applications, including performance, security, etc., Caixin Global 22 July 2020. (央行下发区块链金融应用评估规则 含性能、安全等方面) Access date: 28 September 2020. <http://finance.caixin.com/2020-07-22/101582979.html>

<sup>2578</sup> France adopts a regulatory framework for blockchains, Government of France 25 November 2019. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-adopts-a-regulatory-framework-for-blockchains>.

<sup>2579</sup> Crypto Firms Can Now Apply for a License in France, Yahoo Finance 26 December 2019. Access date: 03 April 2020. <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/crypto-firms-now-apply-license-170000940.html>

<sup>2580</sup> French government forms cybersecurity pact with major French companies, Reuters 14 November 2019. Access date: 03 April 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-france-cyber/french-government-forms-cybersecurity-pact-with-major-french-companies-idUSKBN1XO1HZ>

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 11 September 2019, German federal ministry of finance and German Bundesbank launched TIBER-DE, a new programme that will strengthen the resilience of the entire financial system to cyber attacks. The TIBER-DE framework was developed together with the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and the Federal Office for Information Security. Banks, insurance companies, financial market infrastructures and their most important service providers can use TIBER-DE to test their resilience against cyber attacks. Under the coordination of the Bundesbank, businesses interested in testing their systems hire ethical hackers to try to breach their security mechanisms and penetrate their information systems. These businesses can then close the vulnerabilities in their security systems and take preventive measures against actual hacking.<sup>2581</sup>

In March 2020, BaFin identified four overarching priority areas for its work in 2020, including digitalization, information technology (IT) risk and cyber risk. BaFin will particularly focus on the growing use of artificial intelligence, distributed ledger technology and crypto-assets based on these technologies. In the area of big data and artificial intelligence, BaFin will define the framework for action for supervised entities on the basis of five initiatives within the context of principle-based supervision. The objective is to provide greater legal certainty for the use of technologies involved in big data and artificial intelligence. In addition, BaFin's Insurance Supervision Sector will examine whether supervised undertakings are implementing Insurance Supervisory Requirements for IT.<sup>2582</sup>

On 3 July 2020, BaFin and the Federal Office for Information Security (BSI) jointly published this BaFinPerspectives issue, entitled "Cyber security — a challenge for the public sector and the financial industry." The issue, inter alia, contains BaFin's official positions and plans concerning measures to ensure cyber security in the financial sector.<sup>2583</sup>

Germany has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 2 September 2019, Steering Committee on Fintech related issues constituted by the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs submitted its Final Report to Union Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The report outlines the current landscape in the fintech space globally and in India, studies the various issues relating to its development and makes recommendations focusing on how fintech can be leveraged to enhance financial inclusion of micro, small and medium sized enterprises with a view to making fintech-related regulations more flexible and generate enhanced entrepreneurship. The committee report also identifies application areas and use cases in governance and financial services and suggests regulatory upgrades enabling fintech

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<sup>2581</sup> TIBER-DE enhances the security of the German financial system, German Federal Ministry of Finance 11 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2019/2019-11-09-joint-release-with-bundesbank.html>.

<sup>2582</sup> Supervisory priorities for 2020, German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.bafin.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Broschuere/dl\\_Aufsichtsschwerpunkte2020\\_en.pdf](https://www.bafin.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/Broschuere/dl_Aufsichtsschwerpunkte2020_en.pdf).

<sup>2583</sup> Issue 1 | 2020 of BaFinPerspectives on cyber security now available in English, German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority 3 July 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. [https://www.bafin.de/SharedDocs/Veroeffentlichungen/EN/Meldung/2020/meldung\\_200702\\_BaFinPerspektiven\\_2020-01\\_en.html](https://www.bafin.de/SharedDocs/Veroeffentlichungen/EN/Meldung/2020/meldung_200702_BaFinPerspektiven_2020-01_en.html).

innovations. Given the rapid pace at which technology is being adopted primarily by private sector financial services, the committee recommends the Department of Financial Services work with public sector banks to bring in more efficiency to their work and reduce fraud and security risks. Significant opportunities can be explored to increase the levels of automation using artificial intelligence, cognitive analytics and machine learning in their back-end processes. The committee also recommends a comprehensive legal framework for consumer protection be put in place early keeping in mind the rise of fintech and digital services.<sup>2584</sup>

India is taking steps towards improvement of financial regulation and regulatory approaches, but no actions in other two key spheres indicated by the Financial Stability Board have been detected withing the monitoring period.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 30 September 2019, Indonesia's Financial Services Authority (OJK) issued Regulation No. 23/POJK.01/2019 (POJK 23/2019), which amends several provisions of OJK Regulation No. 12/POJK.01/2017 on Implementation of Anti-Money Laundering and Prevention of Terrorism Funding in Financial Sector Programs. One change introduced by POJK 23/2019 is to allow banks to engage third party service providers to conduct their face-to-face on-boarding verification, whereas previously, banks could only use their own electronic facilities for face-to-face verification.<sup>2585</sup>

In October 2019, the Indonesian government issued Government Regulation No. 71 of 2019 on the Management of Electronic Systems and Transactions, which clarifies the distinction between public and private electronic system operators, which affects the applicability of Indonesia's data localization requirements. These regulations are generally applicable to data protection, and not specific to the financial services sector.<sup>2586</sup>

In October 2019, Bank Indonesia (BI) issued a regulation and circular letters allowing private companies to operate electronic trading platforms for money market and foreign exchange transactions in Indonesia. The maximum foreign ownership for these entities is 49 per cent, and the single presence policy also applies to this sector. We have seen increasing interest in this space since then.<sup>2587</sup>

On 29 November 2019, BI issued a blueprint titled Bank Indonesia: Menavigasi Sistem Pembayaran Nasional di Era Digital (Bank Indonesia: Navigating the National Payment System in the Digital Era)

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<sup>2584</sup> Steering Committee on Fintech related issues submits its Final Report to Finance Minister, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (Delhi) 2 September 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583866>

<sup>2585</sup> Digitalisation Trends in Indonesia's Financial Services Sector — Recent and Upcoming Developments 07 February 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/Finance-and-Banking/891136/Digitalisation-Trends-In-Indonesia39s-Financial-Services-Sector-Recent-And-Upcoming-Developments>

<sup>2586</sup> Digitalisation Trends in Indonesia's Financial Services Sector — Recent and Upcoming Developments 07 February 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/Finance-and-Banking/891136/Digitalisation-Trends-In-Indonesia39s-Financial-Services-Sector-Recent-And-Upcoming-Developments>

<sup>2587</sup> Digitalisation Trends in Indonesia's Financial Services Sector — Recent and Upcoming Developments 07 February 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/Finance-and-Banking/891136/Digitalisation-Trends-In-Indonesia39s-Financial-Services-Sector-Recent-And-Upcoming-Developments>

as a follow-up to Indonesia's 2025 Payment System Visions (introduced in May 2019). The five initiatives will be implemented in parallel by five working groups under BI. Through the 2025 visions, BI intends to:<sup>2588</sup>

- Support the integration of national digital economy and finance;
- Support banking digitalization;
- Guarantee the interlink between fintech and banking;
- Ensure there is a balance between innovation, consumer protection and healthy business competition;
- Safeguard national interests in cross-border digital economy and finance.

The blueprint covers five initiatives to achieve the 2025 visions: (i) open banking, (ii) retail payment system, (iii) market infrastructure, (iv) data and (v) regulatory, licensing and supervision.

The introduction of Payment System Directive 2 in the European Union created opportunities for technology companies (including fintech players), and that will likely be the case in Indonesia too, once open banking is fully implemented.

Indonesia has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

#### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 16 January 2020, Consob and the Bank of Italy agreed on a common strategy for the strengthening of the cyber security of the Italian financial sector through specific measures related to financial infrastructures: payment systems, central counterparties, central depositories and securities trading venues. By the recognition of the value of a cooperative and synergic approach, the strategy aims to fight the cyber threats related to the development of both new technologies and the digital economy, increasing the protection of both the financial operators and the digital services offered to citizens, business and public administration, as well as to ensure the reliability of the financial system as a whole.<sup>2589</sup>

On 27 February 2020, largest and most important financial infrastructures in Europe, members of the Euro Cyber Resilience Board for pan-European Financial Infrastructures (ECRB) launched an initiative to share vital cybersecurity threat information to help protect European citizens' savings against cybercriminals. The core objectives of the initiative, known as Cyber Information and Intelligence Sharing Initiative (CIISI-EU), are to protect the financial system by preventing, detecting and responding to cyberattacks; to facilitate the sharing of information and good practices between financial infrastructures; and to raise awareness of cybersecurity threats. Banca d'Italia participates in

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<sup>2588</sup> Bank Indonesia Issues Blueprint for 2025 Payment System 29 November 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020.

<https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2019/11/bank-indonesia-2025-payment-system>

<sup>2589</sup> Banca d'Italia-Consob joint strategy for cybersecurity in the financial sector, Bank of Italy 16 January 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. [https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/comunicati/documenti/2020-01/cS\\_BIConsob\\_20200116\\_ENG.pdf](https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/comunicati/documenti/2020-01/cS_BIConsob_20200116_ENG.pdf)



CIISI-EU community in its role of payment system operator both at national level and for the Eurosystem.<sup>2590</sup>

Italy has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 18 July 2019, it was reported Japan's Financial Services Agency was considering 110 registration applications from crypto trading platforms, as part of the country's efforts to further strengthen crypto legislation to protect cryptocurrency investors and further integrate the crypto sector with traditional finance.<sup>2591</sup>

On 6 September 2019, Japan's Financial Services Agency held the second roundtable on supervisory oversight of crypto assets, which brought together relevant financial supervisors and international organizations, providing a useful opportunity to share experiences and discuss recent developments concerning crypto assets, including (1) recent technological developments and challenges with crypto-assets; (2) regulation and supervision of crypto-asset trading platforms; (3) investor protection and market integrity; and (4) international cooperation with multi-stakeholders involvement.<sup>2592</sup>

On 30 September 2019, Japan's Financial Services Agency issued draft guidelines for funds investing in crypto assets; the guidelines refer to the worrying investments as “non-specific assets” and advise funds to exercise caution when investing in assets outside the original objective of the trust and to evaluate potential risks, such as those relating to volatility and liquidity.<sup>2593</sup>

On 3-11 October 2019, Japan's Financial Services Agency held fourth financial sector industry-wide cybersecurity exercise Delta Wall, in which 120 financial sector entities took part (large, medium and small players); the scenarios of the exercises were designed with expert knowledge and examples of actual cyber attacks to allow participants to raise their awareness for weaknesses that they tend to fall into.<sup>2594</sup>

On 28 October 2019, Japan's Financial Services Agency published a report reflecting the current state and common issues of cybersecurity across the financial sector; the report notes that “with the progress of digitalization, the environment surrounding the financial sector is undergoing rapid changes, with financial institutions revamping their business models, non-financial players referred to as “platformers” entering the sector,” Japan's Financial Services Agency “will take steps to find out about how digitalization is progressing at financial institutions, taking into account the sizes and

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<sup>2590</sup> Cyber security: Major European financial infrastructures join forces against cyber threats, Bank of Italy 27 February 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.bancaditalia.it/media/notizia/cyber-security-major-european-financial-infrastructures-join-forces-against-cyber-threats/>

<sup>2591</sup> Japan's FSA considering over 100 new exchange applications, BNC 18 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://bravenewcoin.com/insights/japans-fsa-considering-over-100-new-exchange-applications>

<sup>2592</sup> The second Roundtable on Supervisory Oversight of Crypto-Assets –Toward a new Stage of International Cooperation, Japan's FSA 9 September 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/news/2019/201909/20190909.html>

<sup>2593</sup> Japan's Financial Regulator Issues Draft Guidelines for Funds Investing in Crypto, Coindesk 3 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.coindesk.com/japans-financial-regulator-issues-draft-guidelines-for-funds-investing-in-crypto>

<sup>2594</sup> Financial Industry-wide Cybersecurity Exercise (Delta Wall IV), Japan's FSA 28 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/news/2019/20191028-4.html>

characteristics of financial institutions ... and will also be active in gathering information from various entities, including non-financial players, and proactively encourage the financial sector to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure cyber security.”<sup>2595</sup>

On 4 December 2019, it was reported Japan’s Financial Services Agency approved the remaining crypto exchange that was in business prior to the regulation of the crypto industry; exchanges in this category were allowed to continue operations while their registration applications were being reviewed; in total 21 crypto exchanges have been approved to operate in the country.<sup>2596</sup>

On 24 December 2019, Bank of Japan released the summary of the main findings of the Report of the Study Group on Legal Issues regarding Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC); the Report discusses what legal issues would arise within the Japanese legal framework if the Bank of Japan were to issue its own CBDC; whether or not CBDC can be regarded as legal tender; what would happen in the case of counterfeit or duplication under current private law; whether or not issuance of CBDC is consistent with the purposes of the Bank as currently specified by the Bank of Japan Act; whether the Bank can restrict the use of CBDC by certain individuals; the legal issues related to the acquisition of information with respect to Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing regulations; protecting personal information; and the penalties for counterfeiting/duplicating CBDC as Crimes of Counterfeiting of Currency under current criminal law.<sup>2597</sup>

On 24 December 2019, Japan’s Financial Services Agency announced its plans to organize the “Blockchain Global Governance Conference” on 9-10 March 2020 (though it was later postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic) to deepen the understanding of issues regarding the financial system based on decentralized financial technologies.<sup>2598</sup>

On 13 January 2020, it was reported Japan’s Financial Services Agency had plans to impose the new rule in a revision to the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act to reduce the risk to cryptocurrency margin traders by cutting the permitted leverage to two times the deposit due to the crypto markets volatility.<sup>2599</sup>

On 10 March 2020, within the framework of the postponed “Blockchain Global Governance Conference,” Japan’s Financial Services Agency “BG2C — Special Online Broadcasting Panel Discussion”; the session announced the launch of “Blockchain Governance Initiative Network” (BGIN) aiming to (1) create an open, global and neutral platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue, (2) develop a common language and understandings among stakeholders with diverse perspectives, and (3) build academic anchors through continuous provision of trustable documents and codes based on an open source-style approach; Japan’s Financial Services Agency stressed BGIN was formed under

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<sup>2595</sup> Publication of a report on cybersecurity across the financial sector, Japan’s FSA 28 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/news/2019/20191028-5.html>

<sup>2596</sup> Japan Now Has 21 Approved Crypto Exchanges, Bitcoin.com 4 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://news.bitcoin.com/japan-now-has-21-approved-crypto-exchanges/>

<sup>2597</sup> Summary of the Report of the Study Group on Legal Issues regarding Central Bank Digital Currency, Bank of Japan 24 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. [https://www.boj.or.jp/en/research/wps\\_rev/lab/lab19e03.htm/](https://www.boj.or.jp/en/research/wps_rev/lab/lab19e03.htm/)

<sup>2598</sup> Financial Services Agency Japan: Blockchain Global Governance Conference [BG2C], Mondovisione 24 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://mondovisione.com/media-and-resources/news/financial-services-agency-japan-blockchain-global-governance-conference-bg2c/>

<sup>2599</sup> Japan’s Financial Watchdog to Set Low Leverage Cap for Crypto Margin Traders: Report, Coindesk 13 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.coindesk.com/japans-financial-watchdog-to-set-low-leverage-cap-for-crypto-margin-traders-report>

the guidelines set by Japan at the G20 on governance and regulatory frameworks for decentralized finance.<sup>2600</sup>

Japan has taken significant efforts in all considered areas for enhancement of cyber resilience, including financial regulation and regulatory approaches; financial supervision; and the application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies.

Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 20 January 2020, the government announced its intention to impose a 20 per cent tax on cryptocurrencies. The order to review taxation plan had been given to the Ministry of Economy and Finance.<sup>2601</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the Financial Services Commission launched the financial data exchange platform. The platform is said to establish a safe and secure marketplace for the distribution of financial big data. It will also foster new data-driven business opportunities for fintech start-ups and promote data convergence and utilization with non-financial data, which will lead to the development of new types of innovative services.<sup>2602</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the Financial Services Commission presented the development plan of MyData licensing program. By law, MyData business operators are required to have a minimum capital of KRW500million and adequate telecommunications facilities for safe data processing, while satisfying the major shareholder and feasibility of business plan requirements. MyData program aims at improvement of the productivity and competitiveness of the financial industry.<sup>2603</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the Financial Services Commission unveiled the 5th Plan for Financial Hub Policy for 2020–2022. The specific strategies include pursuing regulatory reforms to promote private sector-driven innovation, building infrastructure to continue innovative growth in the financial industry and adopting a “selection and concentration” approach to build global capacity with a particular attention paid to the markets in the Association of South East Asian Nations. Among the main pillars of the policy, the key factors are the development of the digital financial technologies and promotion of anti-money laundering framework.<sup>2604</sup>

Korea is taking steps towards improvement of financial regulation and regulatory approaches, but no actions in other two key spheres indicated by the Financial Stability Board have been detected within the monitoring period.

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<sup>2600</sup> Launch of a new global network for blockchain "Blockchain Governance Initiative Network" [BGIN], Japan's FSA 10 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.fsa.go.jp/en/news/2020/20200310.html>

<sup>2601</sup> S. Korea considering imposing 20% tax on cryptocurrencies, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200120000204&np=61&mp=7>

<sup>2602</sup> Financial Data Exchange Platform Launched, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 11 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200511171544\\_32e3c243.pdf](http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200511171544_32e3c243.pdf)

<sup>2603</sup> FSC Announces Plans for MyData Businesses, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 13 May 2020. Access date: 13 May 2020. [http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200513154540\\_13b5d14f.pdf](http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200513154540_13b5d14f.pdf)

<sup>2604</sup> FSC Unveils 5<sup>th</sup> Plan for Financial Hub Policy, Financial Services Commission (Seoul) 18 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200518111610\\_58dffdf1.pdf](http://meng.fsc.go.kr/common/pdfjs/web/viewer.html?file=/upload/press1/20200518111610_58dffdf1.pdf)

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 29 October 2019, Global Financial Innovation Network welcomed Mexican National Banking and Securities Commission as a member of the group. This network is made up of 50 authorities and international organizations committed to facilitating financial innovation, through a global regulatory sandbox in which coordination mechanisms are established for companies that want to test novel products, services or models in the respective sandboxes of the countries.<sup>2605</sup>

On 2 December 2019, the National Banking and Stock Commission made the Register of Novel Models available to the public. This temporary authorization space, known as the Regulatory Sandbox internationally, can be seen as an experimentation space, which allows companies to offer financial services to a limited number of clients, using innovative technological tools to test them before offering them to the general public in bulk. The authorities obtain better tools to accommodate, in the regulatory framework they issue, new models that could generate benefits for users of financial services, the financial entities themselves or the financial system.<sup>2606</sup>

On 17 December 2019, the Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit, Arturo Herrera Gutiérrez, together with the Ambassador of the United Kingdom in Mexico, Corin Robertson, launched Officially, the Financial Services Program of the Prosperity Fund, which includes a contribution of GBP9.5 million by the UK government, which will be invested in cooperation for the development of the financial sector in Mexico. The objective of the Financial Services Program of the Prosperity Fund is to promote inclusive economic growth and development, through a modern financial system, on which three main lines of work have been proposed:

1. Improve the financial education of beneficiaries of some social programs;
2. Support the implementation and development of secondary regulation of the Financial Technology Institutions Law, based on international best practices,
3. Promote the adoption and use of digital financial services among the population and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.<sup>2607</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Mexico adopted the National Policy for Financial Inclusion. It is a public policy tool that will pay for social mobility, economic growth and with it the well-being of the population. The main objectives of the policy are:

- To facilitate access to financial products and services for people and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

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<sup>2605</sup> 68/2019 La CNBV se suma a la Red Global de Innovación Financiera (GFIN), Mexican Government (Mexico City) 29 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/cnbv/prensa/68-2019-la-cnbv-se-suma-a-la-red-global-de-innovacion-financiera-gfin>

<sup>2606</sup> Registro de Modelos Novedosos), Mexican Government (Mexico City) 2 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/cnbv/acciones-y-programas/registro-modelos-novedosos>

<sup>2607</sup> Comunicado No. 104 La SHCP y la Embajada Británica en México presentan el Programa de Servicios Financieros del Fondo de Prosperidad, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 17 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/comunicado-no-104-la-shcp-y-la-embajada-britanica-en-mexico-presentan-el-programa-de-servicios-financieros-del-fondo-de-prosperidad>

- Increase digital payments among the population, businesses, companies and the three levels of government.
- Strengthen infrastructure to facilitate access and provision of financial products and services and reduce information asymmetries.
- Increase the economic-financial skills of the population.
- Strengthen access to information tools and financial protection mechanisms.
- Promote the financial inclusion of people in vulnerable situations, such as women, migrants, older adults, indigenous people and the rural population.<sup>2608</sup>

Mexico has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on cyber resilience in finance.

On 16 September 2019, the Bank of Russia adopted the Guidelines for the Advancement of Information Security in the Financial Sector for 2019-2021, which define priorities in the area for the near future. These include the creation of risk profiles for financial institutions and the transition to risk-based supervision; the introduction of requirements for the resilience and smooth operation of financial institutions in case of cyber risks materialization; the requirements for data management security and the prevention of data leaks from financial institutions; and the development of the cyber culture of the financial market.<sup>2609</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Financial Sector Computer Emergency Response Team was established as part of the Directorate General for Security and Information Protection of the Bank of Russia. The goal was to establish a competence center for the purposes of the exchange of information between the Bank of Russia, banks and non-bank financial institutions, integrator companies, anti-virus software vendors and communications service providers and operators, and specifically for law enforcement and other public authorities overseeing cyber security across the industry.<sup>2610</sup>

Russia has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on improvement of cyber resilience in finance.

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<sup>2608</sup> Comunicado No. 019 CONAIF y CEF presentan la Política Nacional de Inclusión Financiera (PNIF), Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 March 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/shcp/prensa/comunicado-no-019-conaif-y-cef-presentan-la-politica-nacional-de-inclusion-financiera-pnif>

<sup>2609</sup> Guidelines for the Advancement of Information Security in the Financial Sector for 2019-2021, Bank of Russia 16 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [http://old.cbr.ru/Content/Document/File/103460/onrib\\_2021\\_e.pdf](http://old.cbr.ru/Content/Document/File/103460/onrib_2021_e.pdf).

<sup>2610</sup> FinCERT, Bank of Russia 27 March 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. <https://old.cbr.ru/eng/fincert/>.

On 10 November 2019, in a joint effort between the National Cybersecurity Authority (NCA) and the E-Commerce Council, the NCA has issued two cybersecurity guidelines documents for sellers and consumers of e-commerce.<sup>2611</sup>

On 8 December 2019, the NCA launched the Cybersecurity Toolkit, containing cyber security policies, standards and documents that can be used by various authorities as a reference for cybersecurity policies and standards with the objective to enhance the capabilities and readiness of national entities in cybersecurity.<sup>2612</sup>

On 30 January 2020, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) announces the launching of licenses for non-bank financial institutions (financial technology institutions), by announcing the issuance of the first license for an electronic wallet company and the first license for a payment services company in Saudi Arabia. The announcement comes as part of SAMA's efforts to achieve the objectives of the financial sector development program, which is one of the pillars of Vision 2030, in enabling financial institutions to support private sector growth by opening financial services to non-banking actors (payment services providers and financial technologies), supporting development of the national economy.<sup>2613</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the NCA launched a Global Cybersecurity Forum in Riyadh. It discussed five themes: cybersecurity industry, international cyber collaboration, cyber culture, cyber disruption, and cyber threats and resilience.<sup>2614</sup> It was stated that five memorandums of understanding (MOUs) would be signed between the NCA and international organizations to strengthen international cybersecurity cooperation.

On 19 February 2020, the NCA launched a public consultation on the Cloud Computing Cybersecurity Controls Draft Document to fulfill its role in organizing and protecting the kingdom's cyberspace and engaging the stakeholders and the public in order to produce efficient policies and legislation.<sup>2615</sup>

On 25 February 2020, SAMA released additional licensing guidelines and criteria for digital-only banks operating in Saudi Arabia. Guidelines for digital-only banks include that applicants for licenses must be set up as a locally incorporated joint-stock company and maintain a physical presence in Saudi Arabia.<sup>2616</sup>

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<sup>2611</sup> NCA Issues E-Commerce Guidelines in Conjunction with the E-Commerce Council, National Cybersecurity Authority of Saudi Arabia 10 November 2019. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news22.html>

<sup>2612</sup> Cybersecurity tools, National Cybersecurity Authority of Saudi Arabia 8 December 2020. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/pages/kit.html>

<sup>2613</sup> SAMA Announces the Launching of Licenses for Non-Bank Financial Institutions, Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Riyadh) 30 January 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/news-399.aspx>

<sup>2614</sup> Saudi Arabia's National Cybersecurity Authority Launches Today the Global Cybersecurity Forum in Riyadh, the Middle East Larges to Date Cybersecurity Event, Global Cyber Security Forum, Saudi Arabia National Cybersecurity Authority, 4 February 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news27.html>.

<sup>2615</sup> NCA Asks for the Public's Feedback Regarding the Cloud Computing Controls Draft Document, National Cybersecurity Authority of Saudi Arabia 19 February 2020. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news32.html>

<sup>2616</sup> Saudi central bank issues additional licensing guidelines for digital-only banks6 Salaam Gateway 25 February 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.salaamgateway.com/story/saudi-central-bank-issues-additional-licensing-guidelines-for-digital-only-banks>

On 29 May 2019, the NCA introduced the Critical Systems Cybersecurity Controls. (CSCC -1 :2018) after conducting a comprehensive study of multiple national and international cybersecurity frameworks and standards.<sup>2617</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with the commitment on cyber resilience in finance.

On 17 April 2020, the Crypto Assets Regulatory Working Group consisting of several major financial institutions of South Africa including the South African Reserve Bank presented the Position Paper on Crypto Assets. The position paper provides specific recommendations for the development of a regulatory framework for crypto assets, including suggestions on the required regulatory changes to be implemented.<sup>2618</sup>

South Africa is taking steps towards improvement of financial regulation, but no actions aimed at consistent application of regulation of decentralized financial technologies and improvement of financial supervision were detected.<sup>2619</sup>

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on cyber resilience in finance.

On 14 November 2019, Turkey announced it would be fully complying with the European Union's revised Payment Services Directive (PSD2) starting from 1 January 2020.<sup>2620</sup> The PSD2 focuses on supporting innovation and competition in retail payments and enhances the security of payment transactions and protection of consumer data. The PSD2 is supplemented by regulatory technical standards on strong customer authentication and common and secure open standards of communication, as well as guidelines on incident reporting and guidelines on security measures for operational and security risks. The three documents were developed by the European Banking Authority in close cooperation with the European Central Bank and payment service providers must comply with all of them.

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<sup>2617</sup> Cybersecurity controls for sensitive systems, National Cybersecurity Authority of Saudi Arabia 29 May 2020. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/pages/csc.html>

<sup>2618</sup> IFWG Position Paper on Crypto Assets, South African Reserve Bank (Pretoria) 17 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.resbank.co.za/Lists/News%20and%20Publications/Attachments/9867/IFWG%20Position%20Paper%20on%20Crypto%20Assets.pdf>

<sup>2619</sup> Websites of South African government and central bank as well as open sources were used.

<sup>2620</sup> Turkey paves the way for Open Banking 14 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/34764/turkey-paves-the-way-for-open-banking>

On 1 January 2020, the Law on Payment and Securities Settlement Systems, Payment Services and Electronic Money Institution entered into force and introduced major changes to the regulation and supervision of payment services and open banking service providers, such as:<sup>2621</sup>

- Within the scope of the law, the Payment and E-Money Institutions Association of Turkey is established. Simultaneously, payment and e-money institutions will be subject to independent audit;
- In accordance with the law, open banking products of payment initiation service providers and account information service providers are defined as payment services and be included in the scope of payment services. Payment service providers will be entitled to provide these services as well. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) is authorized to supervise these services;
- Open banking and payment services providers are required to apply to the CBRT to obtain the authorization for these services within one year of the entry into force of the law;
- Furthermore, depending on the limits to set forth by the CBRT, the marketplaces may need to establish their payment service provider subsidiaries or outsource the payment services to third party service providers;
- The law brings major changes to the regulation and supervision of payment service providers and e-money issuers. The CBRT is authorized to regulate and supervise these institutions in lieu of the Banking Regulatory and Supervisory Authority (BRSA). The CBRT will also be entitled to supervise the third parties providing services to these institutions;
- Within the scope of the prevailing legislation, the services, which are not currently defined as payment services, are included in the category of payment services if they reach the limits to be set by CBRT;
- Pursuant to the law, if transactions used with closed loop payment instruments reach certain limits, they may become subject to the Payment Services and Electronic Money Law.

The law is the second and the most important step in terms of regulating open banking in Turkey. The BRSA had taken the first step by introducing the Draft Information Technology Systems Regulation to public review in 2018.

On 4 January 2020, it was reported that the Capital Markets Board, Turkey's financial regulatory and supervisory agency, is planning to develop guidelines to foster the adoption of blockchain technology responding to the increasing interest and usage of cryptocurrencies in the country.<sup>2622</sup>

On 15 March 2020, the BRSA published new Regulation on Information Systems of Banks and Electronic Banking Services, which enter into force on 1 July 2020. According to the regulation, banks' boards of directors are liable for conducting effective supervision to manage any risks arising from the use of information systems. The regulation sets out that the board of directors must approve and establish a strategic plan, establish a strategy committee and a guidance committee related to information systems.

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<sup>2621</sup> Turkey: Turkish PSD2: Open Banking Reform, Enacted! Marketplaces May Need Payment Services License 02 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Finance-and-Banking/870432/Turkish-PSD2-Open-Banking-Reform-Enacted-Marketplaces-May-Need-Payment-Services-License>

<sup>2622</sup> Kripto paralara SPK denetimi 04 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.hurriyet.com.tr/ekonomi/kripto-paralara-spk-denetimi-41412081>



The regulation sets forth the standards regarding the following points to control the information systems:<sup>2623</sup>

- Establishment of authentication mechanisms;
- Establishment of track record mechanism for transactions related to information systems;
- Establishment of network security control systems;
- Security configuration management;
- Security vulnerability management;
- Cyber-attack management and cyber information sharing;
- Creation of an information security awareness training program.

Turkey has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on cyber resilience in finance.

On 3 July 2019, the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) proposed rules to address harm to retail consumers from the sale of derivatives and exchange traded notes (ETNs) referencing certain types of cryptoassets. The FCA considered these products as ill-suited to retail consumers who cannot reliably assess the value and risks of crypto-derivatives, including due to the prevalence of market abuse and financial crime, such as cyber theft, in the secondary market for cryptoassets. Therefore the FCA proposed banning the sale, marketing and distribution to all retail consumers of all derivatives and ETNs that reference unregulated transferable cryptoassets by firms acting in, or from, the UK.<sup>2624</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the Bank of England published the findings of the financial sector cyber simulation exercise that took place on 9 November 2018. The exercise, commissioned by the Cross Market Operational Resilience Group jointly chaired by the bank and UK Finance, explored the sector's resilience to a major cyber incident impacting the UK. The exercise demonstrated that recommendations from the last sector exercise have been implemented and identified further opportunities for improvement.<sup>2625</sup>

In February 2020, the National Cyber Security Centre opened the Northern Ireland Cyber Security Centre. The new Centre will provide a centralised communications role for cyber security in

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<sup>2623</sup>Turkey: New Regulation On Bank IT Systems And Electronic Banking Services 30 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Finance-and-Banking/907164/New-Regulation-On-Bank-IT-Systems-And-Electronic-Banking-Services>

<sup>2624</sup> FCA proposes ban on sale of crypto-derivatives to retail consumers, UK Financial Conduct Authority 3 July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-proposes-ban-sale-crypto-derivatives-retail-consumers>.

<sup>2625</sup> Bank of England sector resilience exercise, Bank of England 27 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2019/september/boe-sector-resilience-exercise>.

Northern Ireland, and will help deliver the Cyber Security: A Strategic Framework for Action and the UK Cyber Security Strategy focusing on several major areas including finance.<sup>2626</sup>

The UK has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

United States has fully complied with the commitment to enhance cyber resilience.

On 28 August 2019, the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) members emphasized the benefits of using a standardized approach to assess and improve cybersecurity preparedness. The members note that firms adopting a standardized approach are better able to track their progress over time, and share information and best practices with other financial institutions and with regulators.<sup>2627</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the Presidential National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) released a communication in response to the National Security Council's call, outlining risks and recommendations for the United States cyber security, including in the matters of finance. The NIAC recommended a two-track approach: to pursue solutions that address urgent, near-term cyber risks that have national security implications and that can be implemented rapidly using existing authorities and design the ideal model for an assured measure of protection informed by an executive-driven public-private partnership.<sup>2628</sup>

On 15 April 2020, FFIEC released several updates to the Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering examination manual. The manual is used to evaluate compliance with the Bank Secrecy Act and anti-money laundering requirements.<sup>2629</sup>

On 30 April 2020, FFIEC issued a statement to address the use of cloud computing services and security risk management principles in the financial services sector. The statement highlights examples of risk management practices for a financial institution's safe and sound use of cloud computing services and safeguards to protect customers' sensitive information from risks that pose potential consumer harm. The statement also provides a list of government and industry resources and references to assist financial institutions using cloud computing services.<sup>2630</sup>

On 3 August 2020, FFIEC issued a statement setting forth prudent risk management and consumer protection principles for financial institutions to consider while working with borrowers as initial

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<sup>2626</sup> NCSC supports Northern Ireland's push to strengthen cyber security capabilities, UK National Cyber Security Centre 18 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/northern-ireland-cyber-security-centre>.

<sup>2627</sup> FFIEC Encourages Standardized Approach to Assessing Cybersecurity Preparedness, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council 28 August 2019. Access date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.ffeic.gov/press/pr082819.htm>

<sup>2628</sup> Transforming the US Cyber Threat Partnership, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (Washington) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 17 May 2019. <https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NIAC-Transforming-US-Cyber-Threat-PartnershipReport-FINAL-508.pdf>.

<sup>2629</sup> Federal and State Regulators Release Updates to BSA/AML Examination Manual, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council 15 April 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.ffeic.gov/press/pr041520.htm>

<sup>2630</sup> FFIEC Issues Statement on Risk Management for Cloud Computing Services, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council 30 April 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.ffeic.gov/press/pr043020.htm>

coronavirus-related loan accommodation periods come to an end and they consider additional accommodations.<sup>2631</sup>

The United States has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on enhancing cyber resilience in finance.

On 2 October 2019, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union (FISMA) and Deloitte co-hosted the event: "How can technology driven transparency fuel the Capital Markets Union?" Head of Sector Digital Building Blocks at European Commission's Directorate-General for Informatics Joao Rodrigues Frade introduced the European Financial Transparency Gateway pilot run by DG FISMA. The pilot experimented with blockchain technology to provide European citizens and investors with easier access to financial information on companies across the EU. He also presented the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) project, which will deliver a Europe-wide blockchain infrastructure offering numerous applications for public administrations in EU member states. The Commission is delivering EBSI in close collaboration with the member states through the European Blockchain Partnership, established in 2018 through the Connecting Europe Facility.<sup>2632</sup>

In December 2019, the European Commission started an open market consultation in preparation of the European Blockchain Pre-Commercial Procurement that is looking for novel, improved blockchain solutions for the future evolution of the European Blockchain Service Infrastructure. Interested market parties are invited to participate in the open market consultation activities.<sup>2633</sup>

In December 2019, 30 Recommendations on Regulation, Innovation and Finance were released by European Commission's Expert Group on Regulatory Obstacles to Financial Innovation. They cover all segments of the financial sector, all types of novel technologies, a wide range of business cases currently observed and all types of market players. They also span important policy areas, including the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, consumer protection, data sharing and use, and governance and operational resilience within the financial sector. Thus, our work has an extremely broad scope. The report explains that it is relevant to consider changes to the general regulatory framework (across multiple industry sectors), as well as the framework for the regulation of the financial services sector, which may require tailored responses in order to be able to realise the

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<sup>2631</sup> Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council Issues Statement on Additional Loan Accommodations Related to COVID-19, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council 3 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.ffiec.gov/press/pr080320.htm>

<sup>2632</sup> EU Blockchain Initiatives supporting financial transparency, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/2019/10/09/EU+Blockchain+Initiatives+supporting+financial+transparency>

<sup>2633</sup> Blockchain Technologies, European Commission (Brussels). Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/blockchain-technologies>

potential of specific opportunities and to take account of specific regulatory concerns in an already highly regulated environment.<sup>2634</sup>

On 2 December 2019, the Council of the EU adopted a first fundamental review of the functioning of the European system of financial supervision. The texts adopted review tasks, powers, governance, so as to adapt the authorities to the changed context in which they operate. The reform also includes provisions reinforcing the role of the European Banking Authority as regards risks posed to the financial sector by money laundering activities.<sup>2635</sup>

On 19 December 2019, European Commission launched a consultation process on the topic “Financial services — improving resilience against cyberattacks (new rules).” Through this consultation, the Commission services aim to gather stakeholders’ views on the need for legislative improvements within the financial services acquis with a view to harmonise rules across the EU in a proportionate way to make the financial sector more secure and resilient while alleviating compliance and administrative burdens.<sup>2636</sup>

The EU has taken actions for improvement of cyber resilience in finance in all three priority areas.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>2634</sup> Expert Group on Regulatory Obstacles to Financial Innovation (ROFIEG): 30 Recommendations on Regulation, Innovation and Finance, European Commission (Brussels) December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/business\\_economy\\_euro/banking\\_and\\_finance/documents/191113-report-expert-group-regulatory-obstacles-financial-innovation\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/business_economy_euro/banking_and_finance/documents/191113-report-expert-group-regulatory-obstacles-financial-innovation_en.pdf)

<sup>2635</sup> Financial supervision: Council adopts a review of the supervisory framework for financial institutions, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 2 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/12/02/financial-supervision-council-adopts-a-review-of-the-supervisory-framework-for-financial-institutions/>

<sup>2636</sup> Financial services — improving resilience against cyberattacks (new rules), European Commission (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12090-Digital-Operational-Resilience-of-Financial-Services-DORFS-Act-/public-consultation>

## 9. Terrorism: Internet Security

“For us all to reap the rewards of digitalisation, we are committed to realising an open, free and secure internet.”

*G20 2019 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia		0	
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico	-1		
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		0 (50%)	

### Background

G20 members are fundamentally united against any form of terrorism or terrorist activity. The leaders believe that a concerted effort is necessary by governments to stop terrorism and terrorist activity. Before the Osaka Summit, the group had specifically dealt with issues concerning illegal financial activities that may support terrorist activities and terrorist financing.

At the first summit in 2008, in Washington DC, the G20 committed to addressing the fight against terrorism and declared that “national and regional authorities should implement national and international measures that protect the global financial system from uncooperative and non-transparent jurisdictions that pose risks of illicit financial activity.”<sup>2637</sup>

At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, the G20 also expressed its continued support for the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and its significant work to deter terrorist financing.<sup>2638</sup> The G20 called on the FATF to publish a list of high-risk jurisdictions in the fight against terrorist financing and money

<sup>2637</sup> Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>.

<sup>2638</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

laundering.<sup>2639</sup> The G20 also welcomed the expansion of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information.<sup>2640</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 reaffirmed its commitment to the fight against terrorism and all its forms, no matter where it occurs.<sup>2641</sup> The leaders also expressed their continued support for the FATF's work in the fight against terrorism.<sup>2642</sup> The G20 committed "to tackling the financing channels of terrorism, particularly by enhanced cooperation on exchange of information, freezing of terrorist assets, criminalization of terrorist financing, robust targeted financial sanctions regimes related to terrorism and terrorist financing, including through swift implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards in all jurisdictions."<sup>2643</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 condemned terrorism in all forms. The leaders committed to "tackle all sources, techniques and channels of terrorist financing, including extortion, taxation, smuggling of natural resources, bank looting, looting of cultural property, external donation, and kidnapping for ransom."<sup>2644</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

This commitment consists primarily of three features: 1) realize an open internet, 2) realize a free internet, and 3) realize a secure internet.

The realization of an open internet refers to actions dedicated to creating an accessible digital world free of illicit terrorist activities.<sup>2645</sup> Fundamentally, the G20 commits to creating a digital sphere where international and national laws are effectively enforced.<sup>2646</sup> In addition, they hope to foster an environment where digital platforms interact with one another and work together to effectively detect and prevent terrorist content from appearing on their sites.<sup>2647</sup>

The realization of a free internet refers to actions that foster a digital domain that reflects human rights, freedom of expression and access to information. In this regard, G20 members "commit to

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<sup>2639</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>2640</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 18 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>2641</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2015. Access Date: 22 January 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>2642</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2015. Access Date: 22 January 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>2643</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 22 January 2017. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>2644</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 28 October 2016. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>2645</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

<sup>2646</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

<sup>2647</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

collaborate with states, international organizations, industry, and civil society in this endeavour” to achieve this goal.<sup>2648</sup>

Furthermore, the G20 intends to urge online platforms to continue to prevent terrorist groups from gaining a presence in the digital world, in particular to prevent terrorist content from “being streamed, uploaded, or re-uploaded.”<sup>2649</sup>

The realization of a secure internet refers to actions that helps to locate and prevent terrorist content from appearing on the internet. The G20 views technological innovation as one of the most promising methods to succeed in this endeavour. It also recognizes the significance of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) in responding to this issue. Nevertheless, the G20 believes that increased action through collaboration with “industry, media outlets, researchers and civil society” will strengthen the GIFCT’s effort and membership in helping to combat this issue. G20 members also commit to sharing domestic experience, while also collaborating on the international stage to effectively combat this issue.<sup>2650</sup>

Thus, to earn a score of full compliance with this commitment, G20 members must take action in all three features: taking action to realize an open, free and secure internet. Partial compliance entails taking action in one or two of these three features. No compliance entails no action taken to realize an open, free or secure internet. Actions that realize an open internet include those that allow diverse groups to access the digital world efficiently and that prevent extremist content from circulating. For instance, policy initiatives that increase government capabilities to enforce digital infringements or that strengthen the ability of a certain demographic to better their access to the internet both count towards this action. Actions that realize a free internet include those that foster relationships between various organizations to promote human rights, freedom of expression and access to information in the digital realm. An example of such an action would involve a state establishing a relationship with leading organizations in the technology industry to increase people’s abilities in freely expressing themselves. Actions that realize a secure internet involve those that identify and block terrorist content from appearing on the web through technological innovations and partnerships. For example, policies that increase funding or establish new projects for technological endeavours that reduce the ability of terrorist organizations to spread propaganda would count towards this action.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

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<sup>2648</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

<sup>2649</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

<sup>2650</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Statement on Preventing Exploitation of the Internet for Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (VECT), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 18 November 2019. [http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL\\_G20\\_Statement\\_on\\_Preventing\\_Terrorist\\_and\\_VECT.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/FINAL_G20_Statement_on_Preventing_Terrorist_and_VECT.pdf)

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member takes no action to realize any of the three features of an open OR free OR secure internet.
0	G20 member takes action to realize one or two of the three features of an open OR free OR secure internet.
+1	G20 member takes action to realize all three commitment features of an open AND free AND secure internet.

*Compliance Director: Arshia Hassani  
Lead Analyst: Vannie Kopalakerishnan*

**Argentina: 0**

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 18 July 2019, the Argentine government designated Hezbollah as a terrorist group and the Financial Information Unit of Argentina froze the assets of the group and of its identified members in the country.<sup>2651</sup>

On 19 July 2019, Argentina hosted the Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference for the Fight Against Terrorism.<sup>2652</sup> The 16 participating countries, including Argentina, “condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations” and pledged to increase international cooperation against “terrorists use of new technologies and electronic communication platforms to recruit or radicalize, spread terrorist material, and incite violence, while remaining committed to an open, free and secure internet.”<sup>2653</sup>

On 19 July 2019, the Minister of Security of Argentina Patricia Bullrich asserted at the Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference for the Fight Against Terrorism that the government is aware of the use of the “internet, social networks, the deep web and encrypted messaging” for terrorist purposes.<sup>2654</sup> She also assured that the government is working on the detection of potential terrorist cells in Argentina.<sup>2655</sup>

On 30 July 2019, the Argentina representative at the United Nations identified the several challenges related to the use of communication technologies for criminal purposes and supported the resolution 73/187 entitled “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes” taken by the General Assembly of the United Nations during the same session.<sup>2656</sup>

<sup>2651</sup> Argentina brands Hezbollah terrorist organization, freezes assets, Reuters (London) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-argentina-hezbollah/argentina-brands-hezbollah-terrorist-organization-freezes-assets-idUSKCN1UD1XE>

<sup>2652</sup> Joint Communique: Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on the Fight Against Terrorism, US Department of State (Washington DC) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-communique-second-hemispheric-ministerial-conference-on-the-fight-against-terrorism/>

<sup>2653</sup> Joint Communique: Second Hemispheric Ministerial Conference on the Fight Against Terrorism, US Department of State (Washington DC) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-communique-second-hemispheric-ministerial-conference-on-the-fight-against-terrorism/>

<sup>2654</sup> Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo at the Counterterrorism Ministerial Plenary, US Department of State (Washington DC) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-of-state-michael-r-pompeo-at-the-counterterrorism-ministerial-plenary/>

<sup>2655</sup> Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo at the Counterterrorism Ministerial Plenary, US Department of State (Washington DC) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.state.gov/secretary-of-state-michael-r-pompeo-at-the-counterterrorism-ministerial-plenary/>

<sup>2656</sup> Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes, United Nations (New York) 30 July 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/SG\\_report/V1908182\\_E.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/SG_report/V1908182_E.pdf)



On 23 September 2019, Argentina announced its support for the Christchurch Call.<sup>2657</sup> By being a signatory of the agreement, the Argentinian government commits to “redirect users from terrorist and violent extremist content,” “accelerate research into and development of technical solutions to prevent the upload of and to detect and immediately remove terrorist and violent extremist content online,” “support research and academic efforts to better understand, prevent and counter terrorist and violent extremist content online,” “investigating and prosecuting illegal online activity,” as well as to implement other measures designed to fight against the use of internet for terrorist purposes.<sup>2658</sup>

On 3 October 2019, the Organization of American States, of which Argentina is a member, launched the Inter-American Network on Counterterrorism in order to enhance international cooperation between Latin American countries in the fight against terrorism on the continent.<sup>2659</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the Argentina National Direction for Personal Data Protection abstained from the resolution on Social Media and Violent Extremist Content Online taken by the 41st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners, which emphasized the role played by social media in recent terrorist attacks and urged social media providers to take action against the use of their platforms for terrorist purposes.<sup>2660</sup>

On 20 January 2020, the 19 participating countries of the Third Hemispheric Ministerial Conference to Combat Terrorism in Bogota, including Argentina, reiterated their pledge to “prevent, combat, counter and suppress Internet use, for terrorist purposes,” “while taking measures to maintain an open and free internet and a secure cyberspace, with full respect for privacy and freedom of expression.”<sup>2661</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the Argentine government issued a Decree of Necessity and Urgency that underlined the right of internet access as a universal right.<sup>2662</sup> The decree regulates the Information and Communications Technology market in order to guarantee internet access at a fair price.<sup>2663</sup>

On 22 August 2020, it was announced that a Cybercrime Combat Coordination Center will be created and led by the Ministry of Security as part of the Federal Plan for the Prevention of

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<sup>2657</sup> Christchurch Call. New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Wellington). Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.christchurchcall.com/call.html>, <https://www.christchurchcall.com/supporters.html>

<sup>2658</sup> Christchurch Call. New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Wellington). Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.christchurchcall.com/call.html>, <https://www.christchurchcall.com/supporters.html>

<sup>2659</sup> OAS and United States Sign Agreement to Create Inter-American Network on Counterterrorism. U.S. Mission to the Organization of American States (Washington) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://usoas.usmission.gov/oas-and-united-states-sign-agreement-to-create-inter-american-network-on-counterterrorism/>

<sup>2660</sup> Resolution on Social Media and Violent Extremist Content Online. 41st International Conference of Data Protection and Privacy Commissioners (Tirana). 22 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://edps.europa.eu/sites/edp/files/publication/draft-resolution-on-social-media-and-extremist-content-online-updated-with-abstentions-1\\_en.pdf](https://edps.europa.eu/sites/edp/files/publication/draft-resolution-on-social-media-and-extremist-content-online-updated-with-abstentions-1_en.pdf)

<sup>2661</sup> Third Hemispheric Ministerial Conference to Combat Terrorism — Joint Communiqué, Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Brasilia) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.itamaraty.gov.br/en/press-releases/21235-third-hemispheric-ministerial-conference-to-combat-terrorism-joint-communicue>

<sup>2662</sup> Decreto 690/2020, Argentina Presidencia (Buenos Aires) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/233932/20200822>

<sup>2663</sup> Decreto 690/2020, Argentina Presidencia (Buenos Aires) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/233932/20200822>

Technological Crimes and Cybercrimes launched in November 2019. This “C4” will fight all types of cybercrime.<sup>2664</sup>

Argentina has partially complied with this commitment by taking action to realise a secure internet such as in being a signatory to the Christchurch Call agreement which emphasizes the prevention of terrorist content from appearing on the internet. However, it has not taken action to realise an open and free internet.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Xavier Bornert*

### **Australia: 0**

Australia has partially complied with its commitment to realizing an open, free and secure internet by taking specific action to realize these commitments.

On 25 August 2019, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that the Australian government had accepted some of the recommendations of the Taskforce to Combat Terrorist and Extreme Violent Material Online (the Taskforce). The Taskforce was established in March 2019 following the Christchurch terrorist attack in New Zealand.<sup>2665</sup> The Australian government accepted its recommendation to develop measures to block websites hosting harmful and extreme content.<sup>2666</sup> The Australian eSafety Commissioner will work with industry actors on options for introducing arrangements to quickly and effectively block access to domains hosting material from the Christchurch attack and from future similar events.<sup>2667</sup> The Australian government also accepted the Taskforce’s recommendation to establish an updated crisis management framework that includes a protocol for managing terrorist and violent material posted online. The new protocol will include a 24/7 Crisis Coordination Centre to monitor and notify relevant agencies of online crisis events and provide the eSafety Commissioner with the information needed to undertake rapid assessments.<sup>2668</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the fourth Foreign and Defence Ministers’ meeting between Korea and Australia was held in Sydney.<sup>2669</sup> The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity through the Korea-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue and to respond to terrorism.<sup>2670</sup>

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<sup>2664</sup> El Gobierno pondrá en marcha una organización especial para combatir el ciberdelito, Infobae (Buenos Aires) 22 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.infobae.com/politica/2020/08/22/el-gobierno-pondra-en-marcha-una-organizacion-especial-para-combatir-el-ciberdelito/>

<sup>2665</sup> Halting the Spread of Terrorism and Extreme Violent Content Online, Prime Minister of Australia, (Canberra) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/halting-spread-terrorism-and-extreme-violent-content-online>

<sup>2666</sup> Halting the Spread of Terrorism and Extreme Violent Content Online, Prime Minister of Australia, (Canberra) 25 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/halting-spread-terrorism-and-extreme-violent-content-online>

<sup>2667</sup> Govt to Develop Violent Content Blocking Framework, Technology Decisions, (Australia) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.technologydecisions.com.au/content/it-management/news/govt-to-develop-violent-content-blocking-framework-795172476>

<sup>2668</sup> Govt to Develop Violent Content Blocking Framework, Technology Decisions, (Melbourne) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.technologydecisions.com.au/content/it-management/news/govt-to-develop-violent-content-blocking-framework-795172476>

<sup>2669</sup> 4th ROK-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers’ 2+2 Meeting Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320887](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320887).

<sup>2670</sup> 4th ROK-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers’ 2+2 Meeting Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320887](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320887).

On 11 December 2019, the Australian Department of Communications (DOC) and the Arts began a consultation on its proposal to create a new Online Safety Act in order to reform and expand its existing patchwork of online safety laws.<sup>2671</sup> The DOC also issued an Online Safety Charter, outlining expectations for industry to protect Australians from harmful online experiences. It is based on the premise that behaviour which would be unacceptable offline should not be tolerated or enabled online, and that internet service providers (ISPs) have a responsibility to respect the rights and dignity of users online and should address and prevent harms being incurred by those using their products or services.<sup>2672</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the Australian Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts announced the agreement of a new protocol between ISPs and the eSafety Commissioner, which positions ISPs to block websites hosting graphic material that depicts a terrorist act or violent crime, to stem the risk of its rapid spread as an online crisis event unfolds.<sup>2673</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the Australian Signals Directorate, along with its counterpart in the United States, the National Security Agency, published a set of guidelines to help companies avoid a web shell exploits: a common cyber-attack that gives an attacker remote access to a system and lets them execute functions on a victim's web server.<sup>2674</sup> The guidelines address several layers of defence, and also advises internet users to watch for uncommon activity such as running network enumeration commands that have no place in most legitimate web apps.<sup>2675</sup>

Through a series of policy initiatives that aim to increase the state's technological capabilities of securing the internet while also establishing programs that ensure the protection of one's rights and freedoms online, Australia has partially complied with its commitment to realise an open, free and secure internet. It has not taken action to realise an open internet that increase accessibility to diverse populations.

Thus, Australia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dan Poliwoda*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment toward an open, free and secure internet.

On 6 January 2020, Artur Coimbra, Broadband Director of Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovation and Communication, announced new measures to facilitate private projects in

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<sup>2671</sup> Australian Government Opens Consultation on New Online Safety Act, Baker McKenzie, (Melbourne) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2020/01/australia-consultation-new-online-safety-act>

<sup>2672</sup> Australian Government Opens Consultation on New Online Safety Act, Baker McKenzie, (Melbourne) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.bakermckenzie.com/en/insight/publications/2020/01/australia-consultation-new-online-safety-act>

<sup>2673</sup> Government and Internet Providers Finalise Protocol to Block Terrorist and Graphic Violent Content, Minister for Communications, Cyber Safety and the Arts, (Canberra) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/fletcher/media-release/government-and-internet-providers-finalise-protocol-block-terrorist-and-graphic-violent-content>

<sup>2674</sup> Web Shell Warning Issued by US and Australia, Naked Security, (Abingdon) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2020/04/27/web-shell-warning-issued-by-us-and-australia/>

<sup>2675</sup> Web Shell Warning Issued by US and Australia, Naked Security, (Abingdon) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://nakedsecurity.sophos.com/2020/04/27/web-shell-warning-issued-by-us-and-australia/>

telecommunications.<sup>2676</sup> He proposed three key policies of reducing bureaucracy and facilitating approbation of projects with support from state company Anatel and supervision from the ministry.<sup>2677</sup>

On 30 June 2020, the Brazilian Law on Freedom, Responsibility and Transparency on the Internet (Bill 2630/2020), also coined the “Fake News” bill, was approved by the Senate.<sup>2678</sup> The bill aims to curb the dissemination of false information by establishing rules regarding the transparency of social networks and private messaging services, the transparency of sponsored content and sanctions for non-compliance with the law.<sup>2679</sup> However, the bill has received criticism for its provisions and penalties, which purportedly threaten freedom of expression and association and the right to privacy under human rights law.<sup>2680</sup>

Brazil has taken action to increase the security of the internet through the approval of certain laws like Bill 2630/2020. However, it has not taken action to realize a free and open internet.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Raphaël Colombier and Emily Yu*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 26 June 2019, Public Safety Canada (PSC) announced that it is providing CAD1,000,000 to Tech Against Terrorism which aims to help smaller technology companies in spotting and removing terrorist content when detected.<sup>2681</sup>

On 26 June 2019, PSC announced its commitment to empower young leaders to help shape the internet landscape by collaborating with the Youth Summit on Countering Violent Extremism Online.<sup>2682</sup> This will be done in collaboration with technology companies including Twitter,

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<sup>2676</sup> MCTIC propoe menos burocracia e mais fiscalizacao para debentures incentivadas, Telesinte (Brazilia, Brazil) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.telesintese.com.br/mctic-propoe-menos-burocracia-e-mais-fiscalizacao-para-debentures-incentivadas/>

<sup>2677</sup> MCTIC propoe menos burocracia e mais fiscalizacao para debentures incentivadas, Telesinte (Brazilia, Brazil) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.telesintese.com.br/mctic-propoe-menos-burocracia-e-mais-fiscalizacao-para-debentures-incentivadas/>

<sup>2678</sup> Projeto de Lei n° 2630, de 2020, Senado Federal (Brazilia), 27 July 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/atividade/materias/-/materia/141944>

<sup>2679</sup> Projeto de Lei n° 2630, de 2020, Senado Federal (Brazilia), 27 July 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www25.senado.leg.br/web/atividade/materias/-/materia/141944>

<sup>2680</sup> Greg Nojeim, Update on Brazil’s Fake News Bill: The Draft Approved by the Senate Continues to Jeopardize Users’ Rights, Center for Democracy and Technology (Washington, D.C.), 24 July 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://cdt.org/insights/update-on-brazils-fake-news-bill-the-draft-approved-by-the-senate-continues-to-jeopardize-users-rights/>

<sup>2681</sup> Government of Canada Announces Initiatives to Address Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-announces-initiatives-to-address-violent-extremist-and-terrorist-content-online.html>

<sup>2682</sup> Government of Canada Announces Initiatives to Address Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-announces-initiatives-to-address-violent-extremist-and-terrorist-content-online.html>

Facebook, Microsoft and Google which allow for cooperation between the government, civil society and private actors.<sup>2683</sup>

On 21 August 2019, PSC announced that it will be investing CAD304,253 over three years to the Centre of Expertise and Training on Religious Fundamentalism, Political Ideologies and Radicalization to research far-right extremism in Quebec.<sup>2684</sup> The main focus will be on media research and interviews with experts and activists.<sup>2685</sup>

On 10 March 2020, PSC published their Departmental Plan for 2020-2021 and reinforced their commitment to the Christchurch call as well as the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT).<sup>2686</sup> These plans are outlined as priorities that the department wishes to accomplish under the broader role of their public safety goals.<sup>2687</sup>

On 13 March 2020, PSC formed the National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence.<sup>2688</sup> This committee is made up of experts in the fields of academia, civil society, public policy and extremism experts where their main goal is to oversee and aid in the implementation of the National Strategy on Countering Radicalization to Violence.<sup>2689</sup> The committee's role will be to ensure that the strategy is implemented to meet its three goals of building, sharing and using knowledge to reinforce a free, open and secure internet.<sup>2690</sup>

The Government of Canada has announced policies and funding to meet its prior commitments to both the Christchurch Call and to the GIFCT to help the international push against online extremism. In addition, the government has also engaged with both private and civil society groups to better encompass a diverse group of actors to help in preventing the spread of online extremism. Lastly, the government made progress within its own domestic policy to fight online extremism through the formation of the National Expert Committee that oversees the national strategy.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Khurram Shamim*

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<sup>2683</sup> Government of Canada Announces Initiatives to Address Violent Extremist and Terrorist Content Online, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 26 June 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/06/government-of-canada-announces-initiatives-to-address-violent-extremist-and-terrorist-content-online.html>

<sup>2684</sup> Government of Canada Funds Research into Far-Right Extremism in Quebec, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-into-far-right-extremism-in-quebec.html>

<sup>2685</sup> Government of Canada Funds Research into Far-Right Extremism in Quebec, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-funds-research-into-far-right-extremism-in-quebec.html>

<sup>2686</sup> Departmental Plan 2020-2021: Building a Safe and Reliant Canada, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/dprtmntl-pln-2020-21/index-en.aspx>

<sup>2687</sup> Departmental Plan 2020-2021: Building a Safe and Reliant Canada, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/dprtmntl-pln-2020-21/index-en.aspx>

<sup>2688</sup> National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/bt/cc/ntnl-xprt-cmmtt-en.aspx>

<sup>2689</sup> National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/bt/cc/ntnl-xprt-cmmtt-en.aspx>

<sup>2690</sup> National Expert Committee on Countering Radicalization to Violence, Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/bt/cc/ntnl-xprt-cmmtt-en.aspx>

## China: 0

China has partially complied with its commitment to realizing a free, open and secure internet through various policy initiatives.

On 13 June 2019, the new Draft Measures on Security Assessment of the Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information were issued.<sup>2691</sup> The regulation aims to monitor cross-border transfer that could present a risk to national security, damage public interest or provide inadequate protection for the personal information.<sup>2692</sup>

On 11 July 2019, Vice President of China Academy of Information and Communications Technology Li Yong announced the 2019 China Internet Conference.<sup>2693</sup> The conference promised to offer a bottom-up, participatory, open, transparent and inclusive platform where government, business, tech-community, civil society and all stakeholders.<sup>2694</sup>

On 26 October 2019, the National People's Congress released the Encryption Law of the People's Republic of China to safeguard China's national security and public interests.<sup>2695</sup> The law encourages "technological cooperation on commercial cryptography to be conducted in the course of foreign investment and on the basis of the voluntariness principle and business rules" and exposes activities that "engage in illegal activities such as endangering national security, the societal public interest, or the lawful rights and interests of others."<sup>2696</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the fourth Korea-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation in Beijing to discuss and enhance regional cybersecurity cooperation.<sup>2697</sup> There was a shared understanding that discussions regarding cybersecurity norms at the United Nations are essential to creating a safe cyberspace and explored ways to cooperate on joint response to cybercrimes among law enforcement agencies.<sup>2698</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the Cybersecurity Administration of China issued new regulations for online information, specifying requirements for online information producers.<sup>2699</sup> The regulations aim to establish a clean and reliable internet ecosystem, prohibiting illegal activities including terrorism.<sup>2700</sup>

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<sup>2691</sup> New Draft Rules on Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information Out of China. New America (Washington) 13 June 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/translation-new-draft-rules-cross-border-transfer-personal-information-out-china/>

<sup>2692</sup> New Draft Rules on Cross-Border Transfer of Personal Information Out of China. New America (Washington) 13 June 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.newamerica.org/cybersecurity-initiative/digichina/blog/translation-new-draft-rules-cross-border-transfer-personal-information-out-china/>

<sup>2693</sup> China IGF Initiative Announced during the 2019 China Internet Conference. IGF China (Beijing). 11 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. [http://igfchina.caict.ac.cn/english/global/201908/t20190802\\_2599878.html](http://igfchina.caict.ac.cn/english/global/201908/t20190802_2599878.html).

<sup>2694</sup> China IGF Initiative Announced during the 2019 China Internet Conference. IGF China (Beijing). 11 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. [http://igfchina.caict.ac.cn/english/global/201908/t20190802\\_2599878.html](http://igfchina.caict.ac.cn/english/global/201908/t20190802_2599878.html).

<sup>2695</sup> China's New Draft Encryption Law. 4 September 2019. Access Date: 1 June 2019.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/china-s-new-draft-encryption-law-52672/>

<sup>2696</sup> Cryptography Law of the P.R.C. 27 October 2019. Unofficial translation.

[https://www.chinalawtranslate.com/en/cryptography-law/#\\_Toc23080195](https://www.chinalawtranslate.com/en/cryptography-law/#_Toc23080195)

<sup>2697</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2698</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2699</sup> CAC and other ministries provide guidance on illegal collection and use of personal information by Apps. Practical Law China (Toronto). 13 January 2020. Access Date: 27 Jan 2020. [https://ca.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-023-5835?originationContext=document&transitionType=DocumentItem&contextData=\(sc.Default\)](https://ca.practicallaw.thomsonreuters.com/w-023-5835?originationContext=document&transitionType=DocumentItem&contextData=(sc.Default))

On 12 December 2019, China, as a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held a joint drill on combating cyber-terrorism in Xiamen.<sup>2701</sup> During the drill, each SCO member state participated in a online terrorist propaganda exercise, which indicated SCO's "determination to crackdown online terror activities and safeguard regional security and stability."<sup>2702</sup> Liu Yuejin, a senior anti-terrorism official at the Ministry of Public Security, pledged that China would further enhance cooperation with the SCO members to enhance law enforcement and security.<sup>2703</sup>

On 1 January 2020, China adopted a national law on cryptography that aims to secure cyberspace and information regulation, specifying core and common cryptography for encrypted protection and security verification.<sup>2704</sup> The goal is to protect the state security from encrypted information.<sup>2705</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the Cyberspace Administration of China released a final version of the measures on cybersecurity review, regulating the safety of online products and content.<sup>2706</sup> The new regulations "oblige critical information infrastructure operators to carry out a self-assessment of the national security risks in connection with their online products and services, and to report where any risks are identified."<sup>2707</sup> Online operators are required to identify and report any content that poses threat to national security.<sup>2708</sup>

On 30 June 2020, China announced the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.<sup>2709</sup> For the purpose of preventing terrorist activities, the law includes regulation of public communication through the media and the Internet.<sup>2710</sup>

China has partially complied with this commitment by taking national action and establishing partnerships that aim to realise a free and secure internet. However, it has not taken action to realise an open internet that increases accessibility to diverse populations.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

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<sup>2700</sup> China Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Monthly Update — January 2020 Issue. Herbert Smith Freehills 13 January 2020 (Beijing) 13 Jan 2020. Access Date: 27 Jan 2020.

[https://sitesherbertsmithfreehills.vutirevx.com/95/21584/compose-email/china-cybersecurity-and-data-protection--monthly-update---january-2020-issue\(en\).asp#five](https://sitesherbertsmithfreehills.vutirevx.com/95/21584/compose-email/china-cybersecurity-and-data-protection--monthly-update---january-2020-issue(en).asp#five)

<sup>2701</sup> SCO anti-cyber-terrorism drill held in China. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/12/c\\_138626263.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/12/c_138626263.htm)

<sup>2702</sup> SCO carries out online anti-terrorism drill. Global Times (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1173369.shtml>

<sup>2703</sup> SCO carries out online anti-terrorism drill. Global Times (Beijing) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1173369.shtml>

<sup>2704</sup> China Focus: China adopts law on cryptography. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 16 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/26/c\\_138505655.html](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/26/c_138505655.html)

<sup>2705</sup> China Focus: China adopts law on cryptography. Xinhua Net (Beijing) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 16 January 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/26/c\\_138505655.html](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/26/c_138505655.html)

<sup>2706</sup> Cybersecurity Review. Cyberspace Administration of China (Beijing) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 1 Jun 2020

[http://www.cac.gov.cn/2020-04/27/c\\_1589535450769077.htm](http://www.cac.gov.cn/2020-04/27/c_1589535450769077.htm)

<sup>2707</sup> China Cybersecurity and Data Protection: Monthly Update — May 2020 Issue. Herbert Smith Freehills LLP (Beijing) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 1 Jun 2020. <https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=304cca9e-fdb1-447c-89aa-6ff8f028e1da>

<sup>2708</sup> Cybersecurity Review. Cyberspace Administration of China (Beijing) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 1 June 2020

[http://www.cac.gov.cn/2020-04/27/c\\_1589535450769077.htm](http://www.cac.gov.cn/2020-04/27/c_1589535450769077.htm)

<sup>2709</sup> English translation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Xinhua (Beijing). 30 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-07/01/c\\_139178753.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-07/01/c_139178753.htm)

<sup>2710</sup> English translation of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Xinhua (Beijing). 30 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-07/01/c\\_139178753.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-07/01/c_139178753.htm)

**France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to realizing a free, open and secure internet.

On 9 July 2019, the French National Assembly passed the Loi Avia designed to combat hate speech on the internet by identifying and punishing the author and social media companies who do not remove such content from their platforms within 24 hours.<sup>2711</sup>

On 28 February 2020, India hosted the 14th meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.<sup>2712</sup> The Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the French delegation “condemned terrorism in all its forms” and committed to “prevent the use of internet for terrorist purposes.”<sup>2713</sup>

On 13 May 2020, the National Assembly passed the Loi Avia bill (355 votes for, 150 against, 47 abstaining).<sup>2714</sup> The legislation requires that social media sites operating in France remove offending content within 24 hours of being flagged or face a fine of up to EUR1.25 million.<sup>2715</sup> This period is reduced to one hour for terrorist- or child pornography-related content.<sup>2716</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the Constitutional Council struck down key provisions of the Loi Avia, including clauses requiring platforms to remove illegal hate speech within 24 hours of being notified by users, and child pornography or content promoting terrorism within an hour of being flagged.<sup>2717</sup> All provisions dependent on the aforementioned censored clauses were also subsequently rendered null.<sup>2718</sup> The court stated that the short deadlines created an incentive for platforms to over-censure, which posed a constitutional threat to freedom of speech and expression.<sup>2719</sup>

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<sup>2711</sup>PROPOSITION DE LOI visant à lutter contre la haine sur internet, Assemblée Nationale (Paris) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020. <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/15/propositions/pion1785.asp>

<sup>2712</sup> India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, French Embassy in New Delhi (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://in.ambafrance.org/India-France-Joint-Working-Group-on-Counter-Terrorism>

<sup>2713</sup> India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, French Embassy in New Delhi (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://in.ambafrance.org/India-France-Joint-Working-Group-on-Counter-Terrorism>

<sup>2714</sup> PPL visant à lutter contre les contenus haineux sur internet : adoption en lecture définitive, Assemblée Nationale (Paris), 13 May 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/actualites-accueil-hub/ppl-visant-a-lutter-contre-les-contenus-haineux-sur-internet-adoption-en-lecture-definitive>

<sup>2715</sup> PPL visant à lutter contre les contenus haineux sur internet : adoption en lecture définitive, Assemblée Nationale (Paris), 13 May 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/actualites-accueil-hub/ppl-visant-a-lutter-contre-les-contenus-haineux-sur-internet-adoption-en-lecture-definitive>

<sup>2716</sup> PPL visant à lutter contre les contenus haineux sur internet: adoption en lecture définitive, Assemblée Nationale (Paris), 13 May 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <http://www.assemblee-nationale.fr/dyn/actualites-accueil-hub/ppl-visant-a-lutter-contre-les-contenus-haineux-sur-internet-adoption-en-lecture-definitive>

<sup>2717</sup> Nicolas Boring, France: Constitutional Court Strikes Down Key Provisions of Bill on Hate Speech, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), 29 June 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-constitutional-court-strikes-down-key-provisions-of-bill-on-hate-speech/>

<sup>2718</sup> Nicolas Boring, France: Constitutional Court Strikes Down Key Provisions of Bill on Hate Speech, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), 29 June 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-constitutional-court-strikes-down-key-provisions-of-bill-on-hate-speech/>

<sup>2719</sup> Aurelien Breedem, French Court Strikes Down Most of Online Hate Speech Law, *The New York Times* (New York City), 18 June 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/18/world/europe/france-internet-hate-speech-regulation.html>



On 24 June 2020, the Loi Avia was signed into law by President Emmanuel Macron, excluding the provisions struck down by the Constitutional Council.<sup>2720</sup> The most significant contribution of the bill that remained was the authorization to create a specialized court that would adjudicate cases of hate speech.<sup>2721</sup>

France has partially complied with this commitment by realising a free and secure internet. Through the Loi Avia, France is increasing digital security by prohibiting terrorist and extremist content from appearing online, and the law also protects fundamental human rights and freedoms. However, it has not taken action to realise an open internet.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Raphaël Colombier and Emily Yu*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to realizing an open, free and secure internet.

On 24 September 2019, Germany announced that it will provide the Office for the Protection of the Constitution with 300 additional jobs in order to combat terrorism.<sup>2722</sup> The 300 additional jobs will entail the identification of terrorist cells and individual perpetrators, with social media platforms and the internet being monitored more closely to identify radicalization of extremists.<sup>2723</sup>

On 17 October 2019, Federal Minister Horst Seehofer announced that the government would be taking “appropriate preventative measures” and plans to tighten laws on hate speech on the internet.<sup>2724</sup> The government plans to work with specialists and representatives of the Jewish community on this initiative.<sup>2725</sup>

On 26 October 2019, Minister Seehofer met with the G7 interior ministers.<sup>2726</sup> He discussed the threat of right-wing extremism and the need of preventive measures to mitigate threats on the internet.<sup>2727</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the German government unveiled new measures to combat right-wing extremism and hate crimes on the internet.<sup>2728</sup> The new measures will oblige online service providers

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<sup>2720</sup> Nicolas Boring, France: Constitutional Court Strikes Down Key Provisions of Bill on Hate Speech, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), 29 June 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-constitutional-court-strikes-down-key-provisions-of-bill-on-hate-speech/>

<sup>2721</sup> Nicolas Boring, France: Constitutional Court Strikes Down Key Provisions of Bill on Hate Speech, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), 29 June 2020. Access date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/france-constitutional-court-strikes-down-key-provisions-of-bill-on-hate-speech/>

<sup>2722</sup> Bundesregierung will Verfassungsschutz massiv aufstocken, Spiegel Online (Cologne) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.spiegel.de/politik/deutschland/horst-seehofer-will-verfassungsschutz-massiv-aufstocken-regierungsplaene-a-1288364.html>

<sup>2723</sup> Germany to create 300 jobs to combat right-wing extremism, The Local (Berlin) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.thelocal.de/20190924/germany-to-create-300-jobs-to-fight-right-wing-extremism>

<sup>2724</sup> Minister calls for better protection of Jewish institutions in Germany, Xinhuanet (Berlin) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/17/c\\_138480221.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/17/c_138480221.htm)

<sup>2725</sup> Better protection for Jewish Life in Germany, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Berlin) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2019/10/better-protection-jewish-life.html>

<sup>2726</sup> G6 interior ministers meet in Munich, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Munich) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2019/10/g6-innenministertreffen-en.html>

<sup>2727</sup> G6 interior ministers meet in Munich, Federal Ministry of the Interior (Munich) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2019/10/g6-innenministertreffen-en.html>

such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter to report hate speech to German authorities and also pass on the IP addresses of conspicuous users.<sup>2729</sup> The new measures will crackdown on illegal content such as death threats or incitement of hatred on their platforms.<sup>2730</sup>

On 1 November 2019, during the fifth German-Indian government consultations in New Delhi, Germany and India announced that they will be strengthening their bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and extremism.<sup>2731</sup> In a joint statement, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and working towards rooting out terrorist safe havens, infrastructure and disrupting networks and financing channels.<sup>2732</sup>

On 14 November 2019, the German parliament passed a raft of anti-money laundering measures to prevent the illegal financing of terrorist and criminal networks.<sup>2733</sup> The reform packet imposes stricter regulations on real estate agents, notaries, precious metals dealers and auction houses to declare transactions.<sup>2734</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the German government published a new draft bill to amend the German Hate Speech Act (Netzwerkdurchsetzungsgesetz — “NetzDG”).<sup>2735</sup> The goal is to prevent the dissemination of offensive and aggressive content falling within the scope of application under the NetzDG bill.<sup>2736</sup> The new amendment obliges social networks to transmit some user data, such as IP addresses or port numbers.<sup>2737</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Minister Seehofer banned all activities by the terrorist organization Hezbollah in Germany.<sup>2738</sup> He stated at a press conference that “The organization is therefore fundamentally

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<sup>2728</sup> Germany unveils new measures to combat far-right, Anadolu Agency (Berlin) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/germany-unveils-new-measures-to-combat-far-right/1631080>

<sup>2729</sup> Germany announces plans to combat far-right extremism and online hate speech, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-announces-plans-to-combat-far-right-extremism-and-online-hate-speech/a-51049129>

<sup>2730</sup> Germany to tighten hate speech law to fight far-right violence, Politico (Berlin) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-to-tighten-hate-speech-law-to-fight-far-right-violence/>

<sup>2731</sup> India, Germany to intensify cooperation in combating terror: PM, Rediff.com (New Delhi) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.rediff.com/news/report/pix-germanys-angela-merkel-in-india-day-1/20191101.htm>

<sup>2732</sup> PM Modi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel vow joint fight against terror, India Today (New Delhi) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/pm-modi-german-chancellor-angela-merkel-vow-joint-fight-on-terror-1614965-2019-11-02>

<sup>2733</sup> German Parliament passes anti-money-laundering laws, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-parliament-passes-anti-money-laundering-laws/a-51260043>

<sup>2734</sup> German Parliament passes anti-money-laundering laws, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-parliament-passes-anti-money-laundering-laws/a-51260043>

<sup>2735</sup> German government introduces new bill to amend Germany’s Hate Speech Act, establishing new requirements for social networks and video-sharing platforms, Technology Law Dispatch (Berlin) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.technologylawdispatch.com/2020/04/regulatory/german-government-introduces-new-bill-to-amend-germanys-hate-speech-act-establishing-new-requirements-for-social-networks-and-video-sharing-platforms/>

<sup>2736</sup> Germany is amending its online speech act NetzDG... but not only that, Internet Policy Review (Hamburg) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://policyreview.info/articles/news/germany-amending-its-online-speech-act-netzdg-not-only/1464>

<sup>2737</sup> German online hate speech reform criticized for allowing ‘backdoor’ data collection, Euractiv (Berlin) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.euractiv.com/section/data-protection/news/german-online-hate-speech-reform-criticised-for-allowing-backdoor-data-collection/>

<sup>2738</sup> Ban on activities of terrorist organization Hezbollah in Germany, the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (Berlin) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2020/04/ban-of-hizb-allah-activities.html>

against the concept of international understanding regardless of whether it presents itself as a political, social military structure.”<sup>2739</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the German Federal Constitutional Court ruled that foreigners also benefit from privacy protections under Germany’s constitution.<sup>2740</sup> The powers of Germany’s foreign intelligence service to eavesdrop on foreign nationals’ internet were deemed unconstitutional.<sup>2741</sup>

On 11 August 2020, the German government announced a federal agency to combat cyberthreats.<sup>2742</sup> The government plans to coordinate innovative research on cybersecurity and help turn it into practicable approaches to mitigate cyberthreats.<sup>2743</sup> The federal agency will receive EUR350 million in funding and will hold headquarters in the city of Halle.<sup>2744</sup>

Through its efforts in legislating measures that prevent terrorist and extremist activity on the internet, and by establishing partnerships with the international community, other G20 members and private technology companies to combat hate speech, Germany has partially complied with this commitment by taking action to realise a free and secure internet. However, it has not taken action to realise an open internet.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sebastian Vecerina*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 4 August 2019, Indian authorities cut the internet connection in the autonomous region of Kashmir, among other measures designed to regain control of this disputed territory where unrests were likely to break out.<sup>2745</sup> The Indian government shut down the internet 95 times in 2019.<sup>2746</sup>

On 8 August 2019, during an address to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi “appealed to those who are associated with technology to give priority in their policies and their decisions as to

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<sup>2739</sup> German government bans Hezbollah – Interior Ministry, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 21 21 July 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-government-bans-hezbollah-interior-ministry/a-53287126>

<sup>2740</sup> German intelligence can no longer freely spy on the world’s Internet traffic, top court rules, Fortune (Berlin) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://fortune.com/2020/05/19/germany-snowden-spying-bnd-nsa-de-cix/>

<sup>2741</sup> Top German court deems spying on foreigners’ internet traffic is unconstitutional, Politico (Berlin) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.politico.eu/article/top-german-court-deems-spying-on-foreigners-internet-traffic-is-unconstitutional/>

<sup>2742</sup> Germany launches national cybersecurity agency to strengthen ‘digital sovereignty’, The Bharat Express News (Germany) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.thebharatexpressnews.com/germany-launches-national-cybersecurity-agency-to-strengthen-digital-sovereignty-tben-11-08-2020/>

<sup>2743</sup> Germany launches cybersecurity agency to strengthen ‘digital sovereignty’, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 23 September 23, 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-launches-cybersecurity-agency-to-strengthen-digital-sovereignty/a-54529134>

<sup>2744</sup> Germany launches a new agency dedicated to cybersecurity, inside telecom (Berlin) 14 August 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.insidetelecom.com/germany-launches-a-new-agency-dedicated-to-cybersecurity/>

<sup>2745</sup> India Revokes Kashmir’s Special Status, Raising Fears of Unrest, The New York Times (New York) 5 August 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/05/world/asia/india-pakistan-kashmir-jammu.html>

<sup>2746</sup> Why India shuts down the internet more than any other democracy, BBC News (London) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-50819905>

how to disseminate technology in Jammu and Kashmir.”<sup>2747</sup> He stressed the importance of the strengthening of digital communications in these regions.<sup>2748</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the Federal Information and Technology Minister said that the internet “must be safe and secure.”<sup>2749</sup> He added that “it must safeguard the privacy rights of the individual and you must make extra efforts that people don’t abuse the system.”<sup>2750</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the Minister of State for the Development of North Eastern Region said that the internet blackout in Jammu and Kashmir has enabled the elimination of several terrorists and prevented several terror incidents.<sup>2751</sup>

On 30 October 2019, Indian Secretary of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov met for the 11th meeting of the India-Russia joint working group on counter terrorism in New Delhi.<sup>2752</sup> Both sides deliberated upon measures to further strengthen and deepen counterterrorism cooperation and both agreed on united efforts to fight terrorism and terrorism financing at multilateral forums.<sup>2753</sup>

On 1 November 2019, during the fifth German-Indian government consultations in New Delhi, Germany and India announced that they will be strengthening their bilateral and multilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and extremism.<sup>2754</sup> In a joint statement, Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized strengthening counter-terrorism cooperation and working towards rooting out terrorist safe havens, infrastructure and disrupting networks and financing channels.<sup>2755</sup>

On 8 November 2019, the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India participated in the 2019 “No Money for Terror” Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing.<sup>2756</sup> The 65 delegations of the conference, including India, “reaffirmed support for international efforts to

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<sup>2747</sup> PM’s address to the Nation, PM India (New Delhi) 8 August 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

[https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-to-the-nation-2/?comment=disable](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-to-the-nation-2/?comment=disable)

<sup>2748</sup> PM’s address to the Nation, PM India (New Delhi), 8 August 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020.

[https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-to-the-nation-2/?comment=disable](https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-to-the-nation-2/?comment=disable)

<sup>2749</sup> India tells tech firms to protect user privacy, prevent abuse, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://fr.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN1W41S3>

<sup>2750</sup> India tells tech firms to protect user privacy, prevent abuse, Reuters (New Delhi) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://fr.reuters.com/article/idUSKBN1W41S3>

<sup>2751</sup> Internet suspension averted major terror attacks in J&K: Union Minister Jitendra Singh, India Today (New Delhi) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/internet-suspension-averted-major-terror-incidents-in-j-k-union-minister-jitendra-singh-1613925-2019-10-30>

<sup>2752</sup> Joint Press Statement: India-Russia High Level Consultations on Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31986/joint+press+statement+indiarussia+high+level+consultations+on+counter+terrorism>

<sup>2753</sup> Press release on the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russia (New Delhi) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

[https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/in/-/asset\\_publisher/EpJ5G4lcymvb/content/id/3879023](https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/in/-/asset_publisher/EpJ5G4lcymvb/content/id/3879023)

<sup>2754</sup> India, Germany to intensify cooperation in combating terror: PM, Rediff.com (New Delhi) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.rediff.com/news/report/pix-germanys-angela-merkel-in-india-day-1/20191101.htm>

<sup>2755</sup> PM Modi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel vow joint fight against terror, India Today (New Delhi) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/mail-today/story/pm-modi-german-chancellor-angela-merkel-vow-joint-fight-on-terror-1614965-2019-11-02>

<sup>2756</sup> Chair’s Statement, 2019 ‘No Money for Terror’ Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing, Department of Home Affairs of Australia (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/criminal-justice/crime-prevention/anti-money-laundering-counter-terrorism-financing/ministerial-conference-statement-20191107>

prevent terrorist and violent extremist exploitation of the Internet, including through the Christchurch Call to Action,”<sup>2757</sup> and “recognised the need to identify emerging risks from new technology platforms.”<sup>2758</sup>

On 12 November 2019, the Foreign Minister of India said at the Paris Peace Forum that India is “concerned about the threats from the cyberspace” and suggested a global regulation of the cyberspace “in order that the cyberspace remains open, safe and secure.”<sup>2759</sup> He said that the states are responsible for their national cyber security as well as for the data security of their citizens.<sup>2760</sup>

On 26 November 2019, the Joint Secretary on Counter Terrorism of the Ministry of External Affairs of India reaffirmed the opposition of his country to all forms of terrorism, including against “the online threat of radicalisation,” as part of the 13th meeting of the India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in London.<sup>2761</sup>

On 30 November 2019, the Japanese Foreign Minister and the Minister of Defence took part in a ministerial dialogue with India to discuss the threats posed to regional peace by terror networks operating from Pakistan.<sup>2762</sup> The Japanese members, along with their Indian counterparts, called upon Pakistan to “take resolute and irreversible action against [terror networks] and fully comply with international commitments”<sup>2763</sup> including the steps prescribed by the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-terror watchdog.<sup>2764</sup>

On 21 December 2019, Indian authorities suspended internet and phone services “in areas of New Delhi, in the eastern state of West Bengal, the northern city of Aligarh and the entire state of Assam,”<sup>2765</sup> where protests against a new citizenship law were likely to break out.<sup>2766</sup>

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<sup>2757</sup> Chair’s Statement, 2019 ‘No Money for Terror’ Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing, Department of Home Affairs of Australia (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/criminal-justice/crime-prevention/anti-money-laundering-counter-terrorism-financing/ministerial-conference-statement-20191107>

<sup>2758</sup> Chair’s Statement, 2019 ‘No Money for Terror’ Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing, Department of Home Affairs of Australia (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/criminal-justice/crime-prevention/anti-money-laundering-counter-terrorism-financing/ministerial-conference-statement-20191107>

<sup>2759</sup> India suggests a global regulation for open, safe and secure cyberspace, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/india-suggests-a-global-regulation-for-open-safe-and-secure-cyberspace/articleshow/72027153.cms>

<sup>2760</sup> India suggests a global regulation for open, safe and secure cyberspace, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/india-suggests-a-global-regulation-for-open-safe-and-secure-cyberspace/articleshow/72027153.cms>

<sup>2761</sup> 13th meeting of India-UK Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs of India (New Delhi) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/32133/13th+meeting+of+IndiaUK+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism>

<sup>2762</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times, (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2763</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times, (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2764</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times, (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2765</sup> India suspends internet and phone services to quell protests, Associated Press (New Delhi) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://apnews.com/643423717f6494718e449dac441c3db9>

On 14 February 2020, India's government restored slow-speed internet (2G connection) in the regions of Kashmir and Jammu only for government-approved websites.<sup>2767</sup> Social media platforms remain blocked.<sup>2768</sup>

On 28 February 2020, India hosted the 14th Meeting of India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.<sup>2769</sup> The Joint Secretary for Counter Terrorism of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the French delegation "condemned terrorism in all its forms" and committed to "prevent the use of internet for terrorist purposes."<sup>2770</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology banned 59 Chinese mobile apps which are claimed to be "prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India."<sup>2771</sup> This ban includes worldwide popular apps such as TikTok, Shein or CleanMaster and is a "targeted move to ensure safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace."<sup>2772</sup>

India has partially complied with this commitment by taking action to realise a secure internet through their bilateral agreement with Germany. However, India has not taken action to realise an open and free internet.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Xavier Bornert*

### **Indonesia: -1**

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to unite against all forms of terrorism and terrorist activity.

On 12 November 2019, Deputy Secretary General of the European External Action Service Jean-Christophe Belliard and Ambassador of Indonesia to the European Union Yuri Thamrin discussed a shared view on strengthening international rules-based orders and reiterated their commitment to multilateralism.<sup>2773</sup>

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<sup>2766</sup> India suspends internet and phone services to quell protests, Associated Press (New Delhi) 21 December 2019. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://apnews.com/643423717f6494718e449dac441c3db9>

<sup>2767</sup> India keeps lid on Kashmir's internet 6 months into lockdown, Associated Press (New Delhi), 14 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://apnews.com/6c9f105f899cadee6c22e567057a4fd4>.

<sup>2768</sup> India keeps lid on Kashmir's internet 6 months into lockdown, Associated Press (New Delhi), 14 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://apnews.com/6c9f105f899cadee6c22e567057a4fd4>.

<sup>2769</sup> India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, French Embassy in New Delhi (New Delhi), 28 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://in.ambafrance.org/India-France-Joint-Working-Group-on-Counter-Terrorism>

<sup>2770</sup> India-France Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, French Embassy in New Delhi (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 2020. <https://in.ambafrance.org/India-France-Joint-Working-Group-on-Counter-Terrorism>

<sup>2771</sup> Government Bans 59 mobile apps which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1635206>

<sup>2772</sup> Government Bans 59 mobile apps which are prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1635206>

<sup>2773</sup> European Union and Indonesia hold their fourth Political Dialogue, European Union External Action (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 5 June 2020. [https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70369/european-union-and-indonesia-hold-their-fourth-political-dialogue\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70369/european-union-and-indonesia-hold-their-fourth-political-dialogue_en)

On 22 May 2020, Indonesia co-sponsored the Arria-Formula Meeting of the United Nations Security Council.<sup>2774</sup> The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the global efforts made in strengthening cyber stability as well as preventing cyber threats.<sup>2775</sup>

While Indonesia has participated in discussions relating to this commitment, it has not taken action to realise an open, free and secure internet.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Vannie Kopalakeshnan*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 22 September 2019, Decree Law No. 105 entered into force with the goal of increasing national cybersecurity in Italy.<sup>2776</sup> The law includes policies that increase internet security and so, reduce the capabilities of cyber threats.<sup>2777</sup> The law also includes punitive measures for organizations who fail to take relevant action in accordance with this new law.<sup>2778</sup> Additionally, it directs the government to hire a maximum of 77 new staff members for the implementation of the necessary policies.<sup>2779</sup>

On 28 May 2020, SIA, a tech company that provides information technology (IT) services and infrastructure especially in the financial sector, signed an extension to its agreement with the Italian State Police to continue strengthening cybersecurity in the country.<sup>2780</sup> Past directives from Italy's Ministry of the Interior aimed to prevent cybercrime through greater cooperation with IT operators, making this agreement a continuation of the collaboration between the public and private sectors in Italy.<sup>2781</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the Italian National Postal and Communication Police Unit, in collaboration with the Romanian National Police, Europol and Eurojust dismantled a criminal group responsible for fraud,

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<sup>2774</sup> Indonesia Voices Cyber Stability in the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (New York) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/1327/berita/indonesia-voices-cyber-stability-in-the-un>

<sup>2775</sup> Indonesia Voices Cyber Stability in the UN, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (New York) 23 May 2020. Access Date: 5 June 2020. <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/en/read/1327/berita/indonesia-voices-cyber-stability-in-the-un>

<sup>2776</sup> Italy: New Provisions on National Cybersecurity Enter into Force, Library of Congress (Italy) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-new-provisions-on-national-cybersecurity-enter-into-force/>

<sup>2777</sup> Italy: New Provisions on National Cybersecurity Enter into Force, Library of Congress (Italy) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-new-provisions-on-national-cybersecurity-enter-into-force/>

<sup>2778</sup> Italy: New Provisions on National Cybersecurity Enter into Force, Library of Congress (Italy) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-new-provisions-on-national-cybersecurity-enter-into-force/>

<sup>2779</sup> Italy: New Provisions on National Cybersecurity Enter into Force, Library of Congress (Italy) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/italy-new-provisions-on-national-cybersecurity-enter-into-force/>

<sup>2780</sup> Italian State Police and SIA renew the agreement on prevention and the fight against cybercrime, SIA (Rome) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.sia.eu/en/media-events/news-press-releases/italian-state-police-and-sia-renew-the-agreement-on-prevention-and-the-fight-against-cybercrime>

<sup>2781</sup> Italian State Police and SIA renew the agreement on prevention and the fight against cybercrime, SIA (Rome) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.sia.eu/en/media-events/news-press-releases/italian-state-police-and-sia-renew-the-agreement-on-prevention-and-the-fight-against-cybercrime>

money laundering and other cybercrime activity.<sup>2782</sup> Eight were arrested in Italy, and the group's assets were seized, with their crimes estimated to have caused EUR20 million losses for victims across Europe annually.<sup>2783</sup>

Italy has partially complied with this commitment. Though it has enacted a law that aims to increase the country's digital security capabilities, it has not taken action to create an open and free internet.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Arshia Hassani and Jonathan Ku*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to realizing an open, free and secure internet.

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the fourth Korea-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation in Beijing to discuss and enhance regional cybersecurity cooperation.<sup>2784</sup> There was a shared understanding that discussions regarding cybersecurity norms at the UN are essential to creating a safe cyberspace and explored ways to cooperate on joint response to cybercrimes among law enforcement agencies.<sup>2785</sup>

On 30 November 2019, the Japanese Foreign Minister and the Minister of Defence took part in a ministerial dialogue with India to discuss the threats posed to regional peace by terror networks operating from Pakistan.<sup>2786</sup> The Japanese members, along with their Indian counterparts, called upon Pakistan to "take resolute and irreversible action against [terror networks] and fully comply with international commitments"<sup>2787</sup> including the steps prescribed by the Financial Action Task Force, the global anti-terror watchdog.<sup>2788</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Japanese Ministry of Defense (MOD) confirmed that it would invest approximately USD237.12 million to develop AI-based security tools to defend against cyberattacks.<sup>2789</sup> The MOD also invested approximately USD277,711 to build a Cyber Information Gathering System, which gathers information on the tactics, techniques and procedures of

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<sup>2782</sup> Italy and Romania take down cyber fraud ring generating €20 million per year in criminal profits, EUROPOL (The Hague) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/italy-and-romania-take-down-cyber-fraud-ring-generating-%E2%82%AC20-million-year-in-criminal-profits>

<sup>2783</sup> Italy and Romania take down cyber fraud ring generating €20 million per year in criminal profits, EUROPOL (The Hague) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/italy-and-romania-take-down-cyber-fraud-ring-generating-%E2%82%AC20-million-year-in-criminal-profits>

<sup>2784</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2785</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2786</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2787</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times, (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2788</sup> India and Japan ask Pakistan to Take Concrete Action Against Terror Infrastructure, The Economic Times, (Mumbai) 30 November 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-and-japan-ask-pakistan-to-take-concrete-action-against-terror-infrastructure/articleshow/72310162.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>2789</sup> Japan Embraces AI Tools to Fight Cyberattacks with US\$237 Million Investment, Cybersecurity Magazine, (Albuquerque) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.cisomag.com/japan-embraces-ai-tools-to-fight-cyberattacks-with-us237-mn-investment/>



cyberattacks on government and private entities; expand the Cyber Defense Group from 220 to 290 personnel; and perform research on cybersecurity measures for network devices used by the Japanese military.<sup>2790</sup>

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to realising an open, free and secure internet. It has established policies that aim to identify mitigate the presence of violent content in the digital world, thus realising a secure internet, however, it has not taken action to realise an open and free internet.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dan Poliwoda*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 28 June 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the fifth Korea-European Union Cyber Policy Consultation and the second meeting of the Korea-European Union Specialised Working Group on Counter-Terrorism in Brussels, in which the two sides discussed cybersecurity and counter-terrorism strategies and reaffirmed their commitment in cooperating for an open and safe cyberspace.<sup>2791</sup>

On 2 August 2019, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha attended the 26th ASEAN Regional Forum in Bangkok to exchange views with other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) on regional and international issues, including the cybersecurity and security threats rising from tension over protectionism.<sup>2792</sup> An aim to prevent and mitigate terrorism and violent extremism was also adopted at the forum.<sup>2793</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) hosted the fourth annual meeting of the Cybersecurity Alliance for Mutual Progress (CAMP) in Seoul to foster international cooperation and trust to respond to cyber threats, discussing the alliance's progress and future activities.<sup>2794</sup> As the Korea Internet and Security Agency has renewed their tenure for CAMP operations, Korea will continue its commitment to a secure internet by playing a leading role in international cooperation for cybersecurity.<sup>2795</sup>

On 2 October 2019, the Ministry of National Defence announced that Vice Minister of Korea Park Jae-min and Vice Minister of United Arab Emirates (UAE) Matar Salem Al-Dhaheri agreed to

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<sup>2790</sup> Japan Embraces AI Tools to Fight Cyberattacks with US\$237 Million Investment, Cybersecurity Magazine, (Albuquerque) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.cisomag.com/japan-embraces-ai-tools-to-fight-cyberattacks-with-us237-mn-investment/>

<sup>2791</sup> 5th ROK-EU Cyber Policy Consultation and 2nd Meeting of ROK-EU Specialised Working Group on Counter-Terrorism Take Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320587](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320587)

<sup>2792</sup> Outcome of 26th ASEAN Regional Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320631](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320631)

<sup>2793</sup> Outcome of 26th ASEAN Regional Forum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320631](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320631)

<sup>2794</sup> The Fourth Annual Meeting of CAMP (Oct 11), Ministry of Science and ICT (Sejong) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=tst56&artId=2339767>

<sup>2795</sup> The Fourth Annual Meeting of CAMP (Oct 11), Ministry of Science and ICT (Sejong) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=tst56&artId=2339767>

strengthen cooperation in establishing international peace, including furthering the expansion of bilateral cooperation in the information and cybersecurity realms.<sup>2796</sup>

On 8 October 2019, Korea co-hosted the Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity in Seoul with the United States and Poland.<sup>2797</sup> The meeting was attended by 50 countries and worked towards creating a secure and peaceful cyberspace by sharing each country's cybersecurity policy and best practices, thus enhancing cooperation in responding to cyber threats.<sup>2798</sup> The Korea National Policy Agency also presented about collaboration in countering cybercrime.<sup>2799</sup>

On 13 October 2019, MSIT began hosting the 2019 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Telecommunications and Information Working Group in Seoul.<sup>2800</sup> The MSIT explored cooperation with APEC members by sharing policies, including information security.<sup>2801</sup>

On 18 November 2019, Minister of National Defence Jeong Kyeong-doo called for the international community to come together to cope with new security threats and issues at the sixth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Bangkok by introducing methods to be led by ASEAN countries.<sup>2802</sup> These methods include: "establishing principles and codes in every country to respect international laws and individual country's rights and interests,"<sup>2803</sup> "boosting consultative groups to promote multilateral security cooperation"<sup>2804</sup> and "increasing mutual trust among regional countries and strengthening partnerships."<sup>2805</sup> Jeong pointed to the developments of advanced science and

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<sup>2796</sup> Republic of Korea, UAE agree to strengthen cooperation in establishing international peace, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

[http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_226723&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_226723&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000)

<sup>2797</sup> Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity Convened in Seoul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320733](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320733)

<sup>2798</sup> Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity Convened in Seoul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320733](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320733)

<sup>2799</sup> Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity Convened in Seoul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320733](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320733)

<sup>2800</sup> 2019 APEC TEL Meeting is Held (Oct 14), Ministry of Science and ICT (Sejong) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=tst56&artId=2339769>

<sup>2801</sup> 2019 APEC TEL Meeting is Held (Oct 14), Ministry of Science and ICT (Sejong) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catId=tst56&artId=2339769>

<sup>2802</sup> Republic of Korea Defense Minister calls for close cooperation to cope with new security threats, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000)

<sup>2803</sup> Republic of Korea Defense Minister calls for close cooperation to cope with new security threats, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000)

<sup>2804</sup> Republic of Korea Defense Minister calls for close cooperation to cope with new security threats, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000)

<sup>2805</sup> Republic of Korea Defense Minister calls for close cooperation to cope with new security threats, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000)

technology in the Fourth Industrial Revolution as a means for humans to create security threats in cyberspace.<sup>2806</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held the fourth Korea-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation in Beijing to discuss and enhance regional cybersecurity cooperation.<sup>2807</sup> There was a shared understanding that discussions regarding cybersecurity norms at the United Nations are essential to creating a safe cyberspace and explored ways to cooperate on joint response to cybercrimes among law enforcement agencies.<sup>2808</sup>

On 23 November 2019, President of the Korea Internet and Security Kim Seok-hwan and Chief Executive of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to enhance cooperation and sharing information on cybersecurity issues.<sup>2809</sup>

On 24 November 2019, Minister of the Interior and Safety Chin Young signed an MOU to continue to support Brunei's e-government establishment project until 2024.<sup>2810</sup> The MOU allows Korea and Brunei to share data opening policies and experiences for allowing public data to be used by the private sector.<sup>2811</sup>

On 2 December 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institute for National Security Strategy co-hosted the 2019 International Conference on Emerging Security Threats to discuss best practices in responding to emerging security threats and international cooperation, including cybersecurity and terrorist use of technologies.<sup>2812</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the fourth Foreign and Defence Ministers' meeting between Korea and Australia was held in Sydney.<sup>2813</sup> The two sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in cybersecurity through the Korea-Australia Cyber Policy Dialogue and to respond to terrorism.<sup>2814</sup>

On 16 December 2019, the Minister of National Defence Jeong Kyeong-doo and his counterpart Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi of the UAE agreed to further enhance cooperation in areas of

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<sup>2806</sup> Republic of Korea Defense Minister calls for close cooperation to cope with new security threats, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O\\_47261&boardSeq=O\\_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN\\_020100000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?command=view&page=1&boardId=O_47261&boardSeq=O_230312&titleId=null&siteId=mndEN&id=mndEN_020100000000).

<sup>2807</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2808</sup> 4th ROK-Japan-China Cyber Policy Consultation Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320841](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320841).

<sup>2809</sup> Singapore Signs MOU With S. Korea on Cybersecurity Cooperation, Bloomberg (Singapore) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-23/singapore-signs-mou-with-s-korea-on-cybersecurity-cooperation>

<sup>2810</sup> MOIS to extend support for Brunei's e-government establishment project by 2024, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (Sejong) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. [https://www.mois.go.kr/eng/bbs/type001/commonSelectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BBSMSTR\\_00000000019&nttId=74806](https://www.mois.go.kr/eng/bbs/type001/commonSelectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BBSMSTR_00000000019&nttId=74806).

<sup>2811</sup> MOIS to extend support for Brunei's e-government establishment project by 2024, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (Sejong) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. [https://www.mois.go.kr/eng/bbs/type001/commonSelectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BBSMSTR\\_00000000019&nttId=74806](https://www.mois.go.kr/eng/bbs/type001/commonSelectBoardArticle.do?bbsId=BBSMSTR_00000000019&nttId=74806)

<sup>2812</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institute for National Security Strategy to Co-host "2019 International Conference on Emerging Security Threats", Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320863](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320863)

<sup>2813</sup> 4th ROK-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers' 2+2 Meeting Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320887](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320887)

<sup>2814</sup> 4th ROK-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers' 2+2 Meeting Takes Place, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320887](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320887)

intelligence, cybersecurity and munitions at the seventh Korea-UAE defence ministers' talks, meant to further strengthen their cooperation to establish permanent peace in the region.<sup>2815</sup>

On 29 January 2020, the second Korea-United Kingdom Cyber Dialogue was held in Seoul.<sup>2816</sup> Both Korea and UK shared experiences and expertise in the increasing challenge of cyber threats by sharing information and agreeing to work more closely on responses to cyber incidents and cybercrime investigations.<sup>2817</sup>

On 14 February 2020, Minister Kang Kyung-wha and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Linas Linkevicius held a bilateral meeting at the 56th Munich Security Conference in which the two ministers discussed methods of promoting cooperation in various industries, including cybersecurity and information technology.<sup>2818</sup>

On 30 April 2020, Minister Choi Ki-young participated in the Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting and discussed methods to strengthen technologies for the COVID-19 response, such as creating a secure internet by counteracting cyber activities that threaten the security of the digital economy.<sup>2819</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the 20th National Assembly approved a bill to prevent online sex crimes following the “Nth Room” case in which a Telegram chat room operator coerced over 100 people into performing sexual acts and shared their photos.<sup>2820</sup> The bill aims to remove and prevent the circulation of illegal pornography and block its access.<sup>2821</sup>

On 14 July 2020, the Korean government announced the Digital New Deal, which comprises 12 goals, including the establishment of a strong cybersecurity system to deal with online threats, establish digital education infrastructure in schools, improve online education and support small businesses online.<sup>2822</sup>

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<sup>2815</sup> Republic of Korea, UAE discuss approaches to cooperation in national defense and the defense industry, Ministry of National Defense (Seoul) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?boardId=O\\_47317&siteId=mndEN&page=1&search=&column=&boardType=02&listType=&parent=&boardSeq=O\\_233642&command=albumView&chkBoxSeq=&chkBoxId=&chkBoxPos=&chkBoxDepth=&chkBoxFamSeq=&warningYn=N&categoryId=&categoryDepth=&id=mndEN\\_020200000000](http://www.mnd.go.kr/user/boardList.action?boardId=O_47317&siteId=mndEN&page=1&search=&column=&boardType=02&listType=&parent=&boardSeq=O_233642&command=albumView&chkBoxSeq=&chkBoxId=&chkBoxPos=&chkBoxDepth=&chkBoxFamSeq=&warningYn=N&categoryId=&categoryDepth=&id=mndEN_020200000000)

<sup>2816</sup> The 2nd ROK-UK Cyber Dialogue Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320935](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320935)

<sup>2817</sup> The 2nd ROK-UK Cyber Dialogue Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320935](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320935)

<sup>2818</sup> Outcome of Bilateral Meetings between Minister of Foreign Affairs and her Lithuanian, Finnish and Norwegian Counterparts Held on Occasion of 56th Munich Security Conference, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 15 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320961](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320961)

<sup>2819</sup> Minister Choi Shared Korea's COVID-19 Response Experience at Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting. (May 1), Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelId=tst56&artId=2939696>

<sup>2820</sup> Assembly rushes through over 100 bills, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200520000721>

<sup>2821</sup> Assembly rushes through over 100 bills, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200520000721>

<sup>2822</sup> The Digital New Deal Is to Lead Digital Transition in the World After COVID-19 (July 15), Ministry of Science and ICT (Seoul) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://english.msit.go.kr/english/msipContents/contentsView.do?catelId=tst56&artId=3057114>

On 15 July 2020, the Korea Communications Commission fined TikTok, a Chinese video app, KRW186 million for collecting user data, including the data of those under aged 14 without parental consent, and sharing it to overseas servers, which violated local telecommunication laws in Korea.<sup>2823</sup>

On 13 September 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that they would be investing in their own video conference platform to strengthen security and minimise the possibility of hacking.<sup>2824</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Korea Communications Standards Commission blocked public access to a website which disclosed personal information of alleged sex offenders and pedophiles due to the possibility of false accusations.<sup>2825</sup>

Korea has taken actions in creating an open, free and secure internet by cooperating with the international community to share experiences, information and by agreeing to cooperate with other countries to work more closely to respond to cybersecurity issues through bilateral and multilateral conferences, meetings, and memorandums of understanding. Korea has also launched investigations into private companies regarding personal data breaches.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Ingrid Wong*

### **Mexico: -1**

Mexico has not yet complied in its efforts into ensuring a free, secure and open internet.

On 19 December 2019, the Federal Institute of Telecommunications proposed to repeal net neutrality in Mexico.<sup>2826</sup> The net neutrality ensured equal access to content from any service providers, thus supporting an open and free internet.<sup>2827</sup>

Mexico has not complied with its commitment to realise an open, free and secure internet.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Raphaël Colombier*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

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<sup>2823</sup> Korea punishes TikTok for data mishandling, The Korea Times (Seoul) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. [https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2020/07/133\\_292855.html](https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/tech/2020/07/133_292855.html)

<sup>2824</sup> Foreign ministry to set up own videoconferencing system for better security, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 13 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200913000060>

<sup>2825</sup> S. Korea blocks access to 'Digital Prison' website, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200924001041>.

<sup>2826</sup> Anteproyecto De Lineamientos Para La Gestión De Tráfico Y Administración De Red A Que Deberán Sujetarse Los Concesionarios Y Autorizados Que Presten El Servicio De Acceso A Internet, Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones (Mexico City), December 19, 2020, access date 01/02/2020. <http://www.ift.org.mx/sites/default/files/industria/temasrelevantes/13791/documentos/1documentoenconsultapublicaanteproyectodelineamientos.pdf>

<sup>2827</sup> Anteproyecto De Lineamientos Para La Gestión De Tráfico Y Administración De Red A Que Deberán Sujetarse Los Concesionarios Y Autorizados Que Presten El Servicio De Acceso A Internet, Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones (Mexico City), December 19, 2020, access date 01/02/2020. <http://www.ift.org.mx/sites/default/files/industria/temasrelevantes/13791/documentos/1documentoenconsultapublicaanteproyectodelineamientos.pdf>

On 9 September 2019, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov met with U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan to hold another round of consultations on the fight against terrorism.<sup>2828</sup> Syromolotov and Sullivan discussed topics of the state and prospects for bilateral cooperation on countering terrorist threats.<sup>2829</sup>

On 12 October 2019, Chair of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin took part in the third Conference of Speakers of Parliaments on Countering Terrorism and Strengthening Regional Connectivity in Istanbul.<sup>2830</sup> Chair Volodin and his counterparts agreed to 20 commitments with an emphasis on peace and security as well as counter terrorism measures.<sup>2831</sup>

On 21 October 2019, Russia held the 33rd session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council.<sup>2832</sup> Proposals for initiatives included improving laws and regulations to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism.<sup>2833</sup>

On 30 October 2019, Deputy Minister Syromolotov, and Indian Secretary of External Affairs Vijay Thakur Singh met for the 11th meeting of the India-Russia joint working group on counter terrorism in New Delhi.<sup>2834</sup> Both sides deliberated upon measures to further strengthen and deepen counterterrorism cooperation and both agreed on united efforts to fight terrorism and terrorism financing at multilateral forums.<sup>2835</sup>

On 1 November 2019, the Russian federal law on “sovereign internet” was enacted to ensure the safe and stable functioning of the internet on Russian territory.<sup>2836</sup> The federal law will tighten state control over the global network, routing Russian web traffic and data through points controlled by

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<sup>2828</sup> U.S., Russian Officials Discuss Fight Against Terror in Vienna, RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty (Russia) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-russian-officials-discuss-fight-against-terror-in-vienna/30156111.html>

<sup>2829</sup> Press Release on Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov’s meeting with United States Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan and Russia-US High-Level Counterterrorism Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russia (Moscow) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3780958](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/ckNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3780958)

<sup>2830</sup> Chairman of the State Duma of Russia Viacheslav Volodin visited Turkey, Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Republic of Turkey (Istanbul) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://turkey.mid.ru/en/press\\_center/news/chairman\\_of\\_the\\_state\\_duma\\_of\\_russia\\_viacheslav\\_volodin\\_visited\\_turkey/](https://turkey.mid.ru/en/press_center/news/chairman_of_the_state_duma_of_russia_viacheslav_volodin_visited_turkey/)

<sup>2831</sup> Joint Declaration of the “Third Conference of Speakers of Parliaments on Countering Terrorism and Strengthening Regional Connectivity”, The State Duma (Istanbul) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/en/news/46594/>

<sup>2832</sup> Communique of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council in Russia (Moscow, 21 October 2019), The Russian Government (Moscow) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/38156/>

<sup>2833</sup> Communique of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Foreign Investment Advisory Council in Russia (Moscow, 21 October 2019), The Russian Government (Moscow) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/38156/>

<sup>2834</sup> Joint Press Statement: India-Russia High Level Consultations on Counter Terrorism, Ministry of External Affairs (New Delhi) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/31986/joint+press+statement+indiarussia+high+level+consultations+on+counter+terrorism>

<sup>2835</sup> Press release on the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Russia Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russia (New Delhi) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/in/-/asset\\_publisher/EpJ5G4lcymvb/content/id/3879023](https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/maps/in/-/asset_publisher/EpJ5G4lcymvb/content/id/3879023)

<sup>2836</sup> In Russia, the law on “sovereign RuNET” entered into force, The State Duma (Moscow) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/46811/>

state authorities and to build a national domain to allow the internet to continue working should Russia get cut off from foreign infrastructure.<sup>2837</sup>

On 23 December 2019, Minister of Internal Affairs Vladimir Kolokoltsev met with Internal Affairs minister of the Republic of Ingushetia to discuss improvement for the fight against terrorism and extremism, the fight against drug crime, and control of migration processes.<sup>2838</sup>

On 26 December 2019, Russia began testing for a national internet system that would operate as an alternative to the global network.<sup>2839</sup> The national internet system, RuNet was successfully tested against different scenarios that included cyber attacks.<sup>2840</sup> RuNet makes internet freely and easily accessible regardless of external or internal conditions.<sup>2841</sup>

On 19 February 2020, Minister Kolokoltsev and Swedish Minister of Home Affairs Mikael Damberg held a meeting discussing pressing issues regarding combating organized crime, illegal migration, drug trafficking and anti-terrorism activities.<sup>2842</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the Commission of the State Duma on the Investigation of Foreign Interference in Russia's Internal Affairs proposed amendments that will restrict access to information containing justification for extremist or terrorist activities.<sup>2843</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Russian foreign minister Sergey Lavrov held a videoconference with the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states discussing Russian-ASEAN cooperation plans for combatting terrorism and promoting education.<sup>2844</sup>

On 18 June 2020, Minister Lavrov and Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Nebojsa Stefanovic signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in combatting terrorism.<sup>2845</sup>

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<sup>2837</sup> Russia enacts 'sovereign internet' law, free speech activists cry foul, Reuters (Moscow) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-russia-internet-bill/russia-enacts-sovereign-internet-law-free-speech-activists-cry-foul-idUKKBN1XB4U7>

<sup>2838</sup> Working visit of Vladimir Kolokoltsev to Republic of Ingushetia, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (Magas) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://en.mvd.ru/news/item/19185848>

<sup>2839</sup> Russia starts testing its own internal internet, Techcrunch 26 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://techcrunch.com/2019/12/26/russia-starts-testing-its-own-internal-internet/>

<sup>2840</sup> Russia successfully disconnected from the internet, ZDNet 23 December 2019. Access Date: 28 October 2020. <https://www.zdnet.com/article/russia-successfully-disconnected-from-the-internet/>

<sup>2841</sup> How will the sovereign internet law operate?, the State Duma (Moscow) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/46774/>

<sup>2842</sup> Vladimir Kolokoltsev and Mikael Damberg discussed pressing issues of interaction of Russia and Sweden in law enforcement, Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation (Stockholm) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://en.mvd.ru/news/item/19587281>

<sup>2843</sup> State Duma prepared bills to counter interference in the Russian internal affairs, The State Duma (Moscow) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/en/news/48683/>

<sup>2844</sup> Remarks and replies by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov at the news conference following the Russia-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting on Coronavirus Disease 2019 via videoconference, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. [https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya\\_s\\_uchastiem\\_ministra/-/asset\\_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/4168016](https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya_s_uchastiem_ministra/-/asset_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/4168016)

<sup>2845</sup> Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's opening remarks at talks with Serbian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Nebojsa Stefanovic, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (Belgrade) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. [https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya\\_s\\_uchastiem\\_ministra/-/asset\\_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/4169208](https://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/meropriyatiya_s_uchastiem_ministra/-/asset_publisher/xK1BhB2bUjd3/content/id/4169208)

On 13 October 2020, the State Duma adopted a new bill which fines website owners for refusing to delete extremist and harmful material such as child pornography, and the development, manufacturing and use of drugs.<sup>2846</sup> Fines can reach up to RUB15 million; the amounts increasing based on the offender (citizens, officials and legal entities) and whether it is a repeat offense.<sup>2847</sup> This law obliges hosting providers and site owners to remove prohibited content, but has no compliance measures yet.<sup>2848</sup>

Russia has taken measures to cooperate with international organizations and internet service providers to fulfill a secure internet as demonstrated by the development of RuNet. Russia has collaborated with organizations to discuss digital innovation and solutions to threats from criminal activity on the internet. Although Russia has made efforts to ensure a secure and safe internet, the commitment to a free internet was not fulfilled.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Sebastian Vecerina*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 23 December 2019, the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) joined the international Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams.<sup>2849</sup> CERT is working to enhance the Kingdom's efforts in raising the awareness maturity of Saudi Arabia and to collaborate with international CERT teams.<sup>2850</sup> Saudi CERT has three main functions: increasing the level of knowledge and awareness regarding cybersecurity, disseminate information about vulnerabilities, and to campaign and cooperate with other response teams.<sup>2851</sup> CERTs can include detecting terrorist threats.

On 20 January 2020, a delegation of members from 15 states of the Arab Diplomatic Corps met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to discuss enhanced mutual cooperation between the Global Center for Combatting Extremist Ideology and their states.<sup>2852</sup> These discussions were focused on eliminating the rise of extremism in youth and on the Global Center's research on social media's role in radicalization.<sup>2853</sup>

On 4 February 2020, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Cybersecurity Authority and the Global Resilience Federation aimed at enabling better knowledge

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<sup>2846</sup> The State Duma introduces fines of up to 15 million rubles for refusing to remove prohibited information from sites, TASS (Moscow) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 19 October 2020. <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9704661>

<sup>2847</sup> The State Duma introduces fines of up to 15 million rubles for refusing to remove prohibited information from sites, TASS (Moscow) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 19 October 2020. <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9704661>

<sup>2848</sup> The State Duma introduces fines of up to 15 million rubles for refusing to remove prohibited information from sites, TASS (Moscow) 13 October 2020. Access Date: 19 October 2020. <https://tass.ru/ekonomika/9704661>

<sup>2849</sup> Saudi CERT, FIRST (North Carolina) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi\\_cert](https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi_cert).

<sup>2850</sup> Saudi CERT, FIRST (North Carolina) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi\\_cert](https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi_cert).

<sup>2851</sup> Saudi CERT, FIRST (North Carolina) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi\\_cert](https://www.first.org/members/teams/saudi_cert).

<sup>2852</sup> Ambassadors Of 15 Countries Discuss With Etidal Ways To Combat Extremism, Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Riyadh) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://etidal.org/en/ambassadors-of-15-countries-discuss-with-etidal-ways-to-combat-extremism/>

<sup>2853</sup> Ambassadors Of 15 Countries Discuss With Etidal Ways To Combat Extremism, Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Riyadh) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://etidal.org/en/ambassadors-of-15-countries-discuss-with-etidal-ways-to-combat-extremism/>.



sharing and developing information sharing and analysis capabilities.<sup>2854</sup> In addition, the partnership will provide extensive training to more than 500 cyber specialists.<sup>2855</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the Riyadh Declaration on Cybersecurity was adopted based on the discussions throughout the sessions of the Global Cybersecurity Forum.<sup>2856</sup> The Riyadh Declaration calls for joint efforts to build a better cyber world for all, focusing on: fostering a thriving industry, building a capable workforce, creating cyber-aware communities, enhancing global cybersecurity resilience, and advancing inclusive cybersecurity capacity building.<sup>2857</sup> It included a statement to “enable the role of women in cyber.”

On 5 February 2020, two initiatives were adopted by Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman to serve global cybersecurity.<sup>2858</sup> The first initiative is meant to protect children in the cyber world by launching projects that lead efforts aiming to strengthen the protection mechanisms designed to advance the safety of children in relation to the digital sphere.<sup>2859</sup> The second initiative empowers women in cybersecurity by encouraging them to actively participate in this industry.<sup>2860</sup> It also promotes the professional development of women and increases human capital within cybersecurity.<sup>2861</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Cabinet approved the National Cybersecurity Strategy which aims to safeguard Saudi Arabia’s infrastructure, priority sectors, and government services and activities.<sup>2862</sup> The project will integrate the country’s cybersecurity governance as well as strengthen national technical capacity in defense against cyber threats and risks.<sup>2863</sup>

On 27 September 2020, the Board of Directors of the Saudi Authority for Data and Artificial Intelligence, “Sadaya”, approved new national data governance policies concerning data

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<sup>2854</sup> Saudi Arabia’s National Cybersecurity Authority launches today the Global Cybersecurity Forum in Riyadh, the Middle East largest to date cybersecurity event, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news27.html>

<sup>2855</sup> Saudi Arabia’s National Cybersecurity Authority launches today the Global Cybersecurity Forum in Riyadh, the Middle East largest to date cybersecurity event, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news27.html>

<sup>2856</sup> Riyadh Declaration for Cybersecurity, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/declaration>.

<sup>2857</sup> Riyadh Declaration for Cybersecurity, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/declaration>.

<sup>2858</sup> The Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Initiative for Enable Women in Cyber, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/initiative>.

<sup>2859</sup> The Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Initiative for Enable Women in Cyber, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/initiative>.

<sup>2860</sup> The Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Initiative for Enable Women in Cyber, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/initiative>.

<sup>2861</sup> The Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Initiative for Enable Women in Cyber, Global Cybersecurity Forum (Riyadh) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://globalcybersecurityforum.com/initiative>.

<sup>2862</sup> His Excellency Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban Expresses Gratitude and Appreciation to The Leadership Following The Cabinet’s Approval of The National Cybersecurity Strategy A Resilient secure and trusted Saudi cyberspace that enables growth and prosperity, **National Cybersecurity Authority (Riyadh) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020.** <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news36.html>

<sup>2863</sup> His Excellency Dr. Musaed Al-Aiban Expresses Gratitude and Appreciation to The Leadership Following The Cabinet’s Approval of The National Cybersecurity Strategy A Resilient secure and trusted Saudi cyberspace that enables growth and prosperity, National Cybersecurity Authority (Riyadh) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://nca.gov.sa/en/pages/news/news36.html>

protection.<sup>2864</sup> The policies include: (1) a data protection policy which preserves the privacy of data owners; (2) a freedom of information policy which aims to enhance integration between government agencies; and (3) an open data policy which aims to make information accessible to entrepreneurs, researchers and academics among others.<sup>2865</sup>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet. Through actions such as international collaboration with CERT teams and efforts to protect children in the cyberspace as well as make the industry more accessible to women, Saudi Arabia has taken action to realize an open internet and secure internet. It has not taken action to realize a free internet.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Khurram Shamim*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to realise an open, free and secure internet.

On 25 June 2019, the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa issued the Spectrum Usage and Availability Q1 2019.<sup>2866</sup> This process will include measures to promote competition, transformation, inclusive growth and universal access of the communications sector.<sup>2867</sup>

On 26 July 2019, Communications and Digital Technologies Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams issued the Government Gazette 42597 that provided policy direction for the licensing of high-demand spectrum.<sup>2868</sup> The gazette specifies the wholesale open access network licensing process, which enables the “allocation of 4G spectrum in order to provide faster and more widespread high-speed data services.”<sup>2869</sup>

On 19 September 2019, Parliament enacted the Films and Publications Amendment Act. The Act regulates the online distribution of films and games. In the Act 18H and 24G, the act prohibits the distribution of terrorism-related content, including propaganda for war, incitement of imminent violence and advocacy of hatred.<sup>2870</sup>

On 13 February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced during the State of the Nation Address about a joint effort with mobile operators to enact price deduction for data usage and the issuance of

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<sup>2864</sup> General / Board of Directors of the Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority adopts (5) special policies for national data governance, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2138798>

<sup>2865</sup> General / Board of Directors of the Data and Artificial Intelligence Authority adopts (5) special policies for national data governance, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 27 September 2020. Access Date: 18 November 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2138798>

<sup>2866</sup> Spectrum Licensing. Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.icasa.org.za/pages/spectrum-licensing>

<sup>2867</sup> Spectrum Licensing. Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (Pretoria) 25 June 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.icasa.org.za/pages/spectrum-licensing>

<sup>2868</sup> Government Gazette Vol.649. Minister of Communications (Pretoria) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.itweb.co.za/static/misc/pdf/Gazette-2019.pdf>

<sup>2869</sup> Ndabeni-Abrahams issues policy direction on spectrum. IT Web (Johannesburg) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/VgZey7JAgoVvdjX9>

<sup>2870</sup> Films and Publications Amendment Act 11 of 2019 (English / Afrikaans). South African Government(Pretoria) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2020 <https://www.gov.za/documents/films-and-publications-amendment-act-11-2019-3-oct-2019-0000>

Wireless Open Access Network.<sup>2871</sup> The proposal will facilitate the open access of internet and online resources.

On 10 March 2020, the Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies and the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa announced the agreement reached between the competition commission and Vodacom. The undertaking will reduce data prices, thereby opening internet access to more South Africans.

On 17 May 2020, Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Jackson Mthembu, joined World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.<sup>2872</sup> The day fosters awareness on the use of the internet and other information and communication technologies, as well as of ways to bridge digital divide.<sup>2873</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the National Council of Provinces passed the Cybercrimes and Cybersecurity Bill.<sup>2874</sup> The objective of the bill is to regulate cybercrime and impose obligations on both electronic communications service providers and financial institutions for a safe cyber environment.<sup>2875</sup>

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to realising an open, secure and free internet. Through various policy initiatives, it has increased access to the digital world for its citizens, but it has not taken action to realise a free and secure internet.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Scarlett Lin*

### **Turkey: -1**

Turkey has not complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 1 August 2019, the Turkish Radio and Television Supreme Council was granted the authority to regulate and monitor broadcasts shared on the internet, including movies and television series on streaming and social media platforms.<sup>2876</sup> This is part of a new regulation, the “Presentation of Radio, Television and Optional Broadcasts on the Internet.”<sup>2877</sup> The aim is to provide measures “to ensure

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<sup>2871</sup> South Africans may get free data every day, and surf sites like Wikipedia for free, if Ramaphosa gets his way. Business Insider South Africa (Cape Town) Feb 14, 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-2020-state-nation-address-13-feb-2020-0000>

<sup>2872</sup> Government joins the world in observing World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies (Pretoria) 17 May, 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020.

<https://www.doc.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-joins-world-observing-world-telecommunication-and-information>

<sup>2873</sup> Government joins the world in observing World Telecommunication and Information Society Day. Ministry of Communications and Digital Technologies (Pretoria) 17 May, 2020. Access Date: 29 May 2020.

<https://www.doc.gov.za/newsroom/media-releases/government-joins-world-observing-world-telecommunication-and-information>

<sup>2874</sup> South Africa: NCOP Approves Cybercrimes Bill, Two Amendment Bills, AllAfrica (Tshwane) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202007020392.html>

<sup>2875</sup> South Africa: NCOP Approves Cybercrimes Bill, Two Amendment Bills, AllAfrica (Tshwane) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202007020392.html>

<sup>2876</sup> Internet radio-TV broadcasts are now under the control of RTÜK, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/internet-radio-tv-broadcasts-are-now-under-the-control-of-rtuk-145464>

<sup>2877</sup> Internet radio-TV broadcasts are now under the control of RTÜK, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/internet-radio-tv-broadcasts-are-now-under-the-control-of-rtuk-145464>

parental control of media content that could harm the physical, mental and moral development of children and young people.”<sup>2878</sup> Moreover, the Turkish regulation will also apply to foreign service providers and operators and will require overseas companies intending to broadcast in Turkey to obtain a license.<sup>2879</sup>

On 20 November 2019, President of Defence Industries Ismail Demir highlighted the emergence of crime due to developments in cybersecurity at the International Cyber Warfare and Security Conference.<sup>2880</sup> He stated that cybersecurity is a field for cooperation to ensure the safety of communities and governments should therefore work together on the matter.<sup>2881</sup>

On 13 April 2020, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the areas of development to prioritize during the COVID-19 pandemic, including the strengthening of communication infrastructure in cybersecurity.<sup>2882</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the Minister of Industry and Technology Mustafa Varank attended the Extraordinary G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting and discussed methods of effective digital economy policies during the COVID-19 pandemic, including increasing internet connectivity and providing data safety.<sup>2883</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Turkish Parliament passed a social media regulation bill which aims to define who is allowed to create, monitor or share online content while also having social media providers store data on its users in Turkey.<sup>2884</sup>

While Turkey has passed a regulation to monitor broadcasts on the internet, this action is not directed to internet security. Turkey has not taken action to fulfill its commitment to realise an open, free and secure internet.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Ingrid Wong*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to realizing an open, free and secure internet.

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<sup>2878</sup> Internet radio-TV broadcasts are now under the control of RTÜK, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/internet-radio-tv-broadcasts-are-now-under-the-control-of-rtuk-145464>.

<sup>2879</sup> Internet radio-TV broadcasts are now under the control of RTÜK, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 2 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/internet-radio-tv-broadcasts-are-now-under-the-control-of-rtuk-145464>.

<sup>2880</sup> World needs international cooperation on cybersecurity, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/world-needs-international-cooperation-on-cybersecurity/1651291>.

<sup>2881</sup> World needs international cooperation on cybersecurity, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/science-technology/world-needs-international-cooperation-on-cybersecurity/1651291>.

<sup>2882</sup> Turkey prioritizes biosafety, cybersecurity, food security amid COVID-19 pandemic, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/politics/legislation/turkey-prioritizes-biosafety-cybersecurity-food-security-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

<sup>2883</sup> G20 should design int'l accountability mechanism: Minister, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/g20-should-design-intl-accountability-mechanism-minister-154369>

<sup>2884</sup> Social media regulation bill passed in parliament committee, Hürriyet Daily News (Ankara) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/parliament-commission-passes-social-media-bill-156819>

On 3 October 2019, the United Kingdom and Singapore signed the Internet of Things security pledge that aims to allow the countries to work together on “improving the security of internet connected devices.”<sup>2885</sup> The two countries intend to collaborate on ensuring that devices capable of connecting to the internet are secure from various cyber threats.<sup>2886</sup>

On 29 January 2020, the second Korea-United Kingdom Cyber Dialogue was held in Seoul.<sup>2887</sup> Both the UK and Korea shared experiences and expertise in the increasing challenge of cyber threats by sharing information and agreeing to work more closely on responses to cyber incidents and cybercrime investigations.<sup>2888</sup>

On 18 February 2020, the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) announced that it will be working with its Northern Ireland counterparts to help increase the region’s “digital strength” for its businesses, citizens and charities.<sup>2889</sup> The two bodies intend to provide guidance for such groups to be able to easily and securely access the digital world while also collaborating to increase cybersecurity within Northern Ireland.<sup>2890</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the NCSC announced that it will be helping small businesses move their activities from the physical sphere to the digital sphere.<sup>2891</sup> The strategy hopes to allow small businesses to be able to securely and reliably conduct their work online.<sup>2892</sup>

On 24 June 2020, the UK in conjunction with the Welsh government announced greater funding for internet access in the form of broadband vouchers for an estimated 50,000 eligible rural homes and businesses in Wales.<sup>2893</sup>

On 13 July 2020, the NCSC released the “Home and Remote Working” Exercise as part of its Exercise-in-a-Box toolkit, which is an online service intended to help small and medium businesses strengthen their cyber-security.<sup>2894</sup> Focusing on remote work and video-conference security, the

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<sup>2885</sup> Secure by Design — UK-Singapore IoT Statement, British High Commission Singapore (London) 3 October 2019.

Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secure-by-design-uk-singapore-iot-statement>

<sup>2886</sup> Secure by Design — UK-Singapore IoT Statement, British High Commission Singapore (Singapore) 3 October 2019.

Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secure-by-design-uk-singapore-iot-statement>

<sup>2887</sup> The 2nd ROK-UK Cyber Dialogue Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320935](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320935)

<sup>2888</sup> The 2nd ROK-UK Cyber Dialogue Held, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320935](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320935)

<sup>2889</sup> NCSC supports Northern Ireland’s push to strengthen cyber security capabilities, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/northern-ireland-cyber-security-centre>

<sup>2890</sup> NCSC supports Northern Ireland’s push to strengthen cyber security capabilities, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/northern-ireland-cyber-security-centre>

<sup>2891</sup> NCSC helps small businesses move from physical to digital, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/ncsc-helps-small-businesses-move-from-physical-to-digital>

<sup>2892</sup> NCSC helps small businesses move from physical to digital, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/ncsc-helps-small-businesses-move-from-physical-to-digital>

<sup>2893</sup> UK and Welsh governments team up on big broadband boost for rural Wales, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 24 June 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-welsh-governments-team-up-on-big-broadband-boost-for-rural-wales>

<sup>2894</sup> Businesses helped to keep home workers secure with NCSC cyber exercise, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/businesses-helped-keep-home-workers-secure-with-cyber-exercise>

exercise aims to improve the safety of employees working from home and make businesses more resilient to hacking.<sup>2895</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the NCSC released an advisory to assist organizations in defending against cybercrime.<sup>2896</sup> The advisory was published in conjunction with American, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand cybersecurity agencies and contains technical guidance on how businesses, organizations and the wider public can protect themselves from malicious cyber actors.<sup>2897</sup>

On 12 September 2020, the United Kingdom increased funding for its Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme by GBP22 million.<sup>2898</sup> The additional funding provides subsidies for the creation of high-speed internet connections for an estimated 250,000 eligible businesses and homes in rural areas of the country.<sup>2899</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the NCSC issued an alert to the country's academia and education sector, following a rise in cyber-attacks against schools, colleges, and universities in August.<sup>2900</sup> The alert outlined ways academic institutions can prepare for such attacks and stay safe from threats, specifically ransomware.<sup>2901</sup>

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to realising an open, secure and free internet. Through various policy initiatives, the government has increased the accessibility of the internet for various populations while also improving upon security capabilities so to reduce a range of cyber threats. While it has taken action to realise an open and secure internet, it has not taken action to realise a free one.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Arshia Hassani and Jonathan Ku*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

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<sup>2895</sup> Businesses helped to keep home workers secure with NCSC cyber exercise, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/businesses-helped-keep-home-workers-secure-with-cyber-exercise>

<sup>2896</sup> UK joins international allies in issuing cyber defence advice for organisations , National Cyber Security Centre (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date 21 September 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/uk-joins-international-allies-in-issuing-cyber-defence-advice-for-organisations>

<sup>2897</sup> UK joins international allies in issuing cyber defence advice for organisations , National Cyber Security Centre (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date 21 September 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/uk-joins-international-allies-in-issuing-cyber-defence-advice-for-organisations>

<sup>2898</sup> Big broadband boost for rural English shires and counties, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/big-broadband-boost-for-rural-english-shires-and-counties>

<sup>2899</sup> Big broadband boost for rural English shires and counties, Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (London) 12 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/big-broadband-boost-for-rural-english-shires-and-counties>

<sup>2900</sup> Cyber security alert issued following rising attacks on UK academia, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/alert-issued-following-rising-attacks-on-uk-academia>

<sup>2901</sup> Cyber security alert issued following rising attacks on UK academia, National Cyber Security Centre (London) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/news/alert-issued-following-rising-attacks-on-uk-academia>

On September 2019, the Department for Homeland Security (DHS) released a Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence.<sup>2902</sup> This framework includes a section on Counter Terrorists and Violent Extremists Influence Online, which aims to engage and work with partners in the private sector and civil society to prevent the spread of violent extremist content.<sup>2903</sup>

On 9 September 2019, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov to hold another round of consultations on the fight against terrorism.<sup>2904</sup> Sullivan and Syromolotov discussed topics of the state and prospects for bilateral cooperation on countering terrorist threats.<sup>2905</sup>

On 11 September 2019, the DHS Office for Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention (TVTP), along with the Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh and Tech Against Terrorism collaborated through the fourth Digital Forum on Terrorism Prevention in Pittsburgh.<sup>2906</sup> The goal of the meeting was to discuss innovations and objectives that will help in building the ability of local and non-government voices to challenge terrorism and violence.<sup>2907</sup>

On 8 October 2019, the United States co-hosted the Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity in Seoul with Korea and Poland.<sup>2908</sup> The meeting was attended by 50 countries and worked towards creating a secure and peaceful cyberspace by sharing each country's cybersecurity policy and best practices, thus enhancing cooperation in responding to cyber threats.<sup>2909</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the National Commission on Online Platforms and Homeland Security Act was introduced in the House of Representatives of the United States of America.<sup>2910</sup> This bill aims to create a commission that will monitor and examine the ways that online platforms are or could be

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<sup>2902</sup> Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). United States September 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2019. [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0920\\_plcy\\_strategic-framework-countering-terrorism-targeted-violence.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0920_plcy_strategic-framework-countering-terrorism-targeted-violence.pdf).

<sup>2903</sup> Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence, Department of Homeland Security (DHS). United States September 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2019. [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19\\_0920\\_plcy\\_strategic-framework-countering-terrorism-targeted-violence.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/19_0920_plcy_strategic-framework-countering-terrorism-targeted-violence.pdf).

<sup>2904</sup> U.S., Russian Officials Discuss Fight Against Terror in Vienna, RadioFreeEurope RadioLiberty (Russia) 10 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.rferl.org/a/u-s-russian-officials-discuss-fight-against-terror-in-vienna/30156111.html>

<sup>2905</sup> Press Release on Deputy Foreign Minister Oleg Syromolotov's meeting with United States Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan and Russia-US High-Level Counterterrorism Dialogue, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russia (Moscow) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign\\_policy/news/-/asset\\_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3780958](https://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/3780958)

<sup>2906</sup> Pittsburgh Hosts the 4<sup>th</sup> Digital Forum on Terrorism Prevention, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2019/10/30/pittsburgh-hosts-4th-digital-forum-terrorism-prevention>

<sup>2907</sup> Pittsburgh Hosts the 4<sup>th</sup> Digital Forum on Terrorism Prevention, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), United States 11 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.dhs.gov/blog/2019/10/30/pittsburgh-hosts-4th-digital-forum-terrorism-prevention>

<sup>2908</sup> Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity Convened in Seoul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320733](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320733)

<sup>2909</sup> Warsaw Process Working Group on Cybersecurity Convened in Seoul, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 8 October 2019. Access Date: 10 March 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m\\_5676/view.do?seq=320733](http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/brd/m_5676/view.do?seq=320733)

<sup>2910</sup> National Commission on Online Platforms and Homeland Security Act, House of Representatives, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States (Washington DC) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4782/text>

used in acts of targeted violence and extremism while examining the impact on civil liberties as a result of increased restrictions to prevent online extremism.<sup>2911</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services held a hearing for the examination of the Financing of Domestic Terrorism and Extremism.<sup>2912</sup> This examination focused on countering the use of financial services of financial institutions to fund terrorism which includes online transactions that can be used to fund domestic terrorism.<sup>2913</sup> The committee pushed for a greater recognition of these transactions and of their regulation to prevent further use.<sup>2914</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the White House released the budget for the fiscal year of 2020-2021 where the Department of Homeland Security was given USD800 million to Combat Violence and Extremism through community-based initiatives and to provide support services to de-escalate individuals who are becoming radicalized.<sup>2915</sup> This funding is targeted at ensuring that individuals can be pulled away from the sources that are causing their radicalization.<sup>2916</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Congress granted the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program USD10 million to provide funding for state, local, non-profits and higher education institutions to help establish or improve the capabilities of preventing targeted violence and extremism.<sup>2917</sup>

On 16 September 2020, DHS awarded USD10 million to 29 select programs nationwide to support the development of the TVTP framework.<sup>2918</sup> The money will be used to fund programs that will help build relevant resilience, intervention, prevention and reintegration programs at a local level.<sup>2919</sup>

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<sup>2911</sup> National Commission on Online Platforms and Homeland Security Act, House of Representatives, 116<sup>th</sup> Congress of the United States (Washington DC) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4782/text>

<sup>2912</sup> A Persistent and Evolving Threat: An Examination of the Financing of Domestic Terrorism and Extremism, US House Committee on Financial Services (Washington DC) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020.

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=406018>

<sup>2913</sup> A Persistent and Evolving Threat: An Examination of the Financing of Domestic Terrorism and Extremism, US House Committee on Financial Services (Washington DC) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020.

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=406018>

<sup>2914</sup> A Persistent and Evolving Threat: An Examination of the Financing of Domestic Terrorism and Extremism, US House Committee on Financial Services (Washington DC) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020.

<https://financialservices.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=406018>

<sup>2915</sup> A Budget for America's Future: 2020-2021, The White House (Washington DC) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget\\_fy21.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf)

<sup>2916</sup> A Budget for America's Future: 2020-2021, The White House (Washington DC) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. [https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget\\_fy21.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/budget_fy21.pdf)

<sup>2917</sup> Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program, Department of Homeland Security () 11 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.dhs.gov/tvtpgrants>

<sup>2918</sup> DHS Provides \$10 Million to Local Communities to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020.

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/09/16/dhs-provides-10-million-local-communities-prevent-targeted-violence-and-terrorism>.

<sup>2919</sup> DHS Provides \$10 Million to Local Communities to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020.

<https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/09/16/dhs-provides-10-million-local-communities-prevent-targeted-violence-and-terrorism>.



The projects that were selected directly support the objectives within the DHS's 2019 Strategic Framework for Countering Terrorism and Targeted Violence.<sup>2920</sup>

The United States has partially complied its commitment to realising an open, free and secure internet. It has announced policies that focus on a free and secure internet such as in the Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program grant program, the House of Representatives bill and the DHS Strategic Framework. However, it has not taken action to realize an open internet.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Khurram Shamim*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to realize an open, free and secure internet.

On 1 October 2019, the European Union launched the European Cybersecurity Month to promote cybersecurity practices among individuals and businesses.<sup>2921</sup> The campaign hopes to educate such groups about appropriate practices in maintaining and increasing a secure cyber environment.<sup>2922</sup>

On 7 October 2019, the EU Internet Forum Ministerial Meeting took place where the members committed to an EU-wide crisis protocol that allows governments and internet platforms to respond rapidly and in a coordinated fashion in pursuit of disseminating online terrorist content.<sup>2923</sup> The meeting ultimately aimed to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement and online platforms within the EU Internet Forum framework.<sup>2924</sup>

On 9 December 2019, the European Commission tasked the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity with preparing a “cybersecurity certification candidate scheme for cloud services.”<sup>2925</sup> The project aims to increase trust in a secure cloud infrastructure so that data mobility can become

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<sup>2920</sup> DHS Provides \$10 Million to Local Communities to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism, Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2020/09/16/dhs-provides-10-million-local-communities-prevent-targeted-violence-and-terrorism>.

<sup>2921</sup> European Cybersecurity Month: EU promotes security culture among citizens, European Commission (Brussels) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-cybersecurity-month-eu-promotes-security-culture-among-citizens>

<sup>2922</sup> European Cybersecurity Month: EU promotes security culture among citizens, European Commission (Brussels) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/european-cybersecurity-month-eu-promotes-security-culture-among-citizens>

<sup>2923</sup> Fighting Terrorism Online: EU Internet Forum committed to an EU-wide Crisis Protocol, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6009](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6009).

<sup>2924</sup> Fighting Terrorism Online: EU Internet Forum committed to an EU-wide Crisis Protocol, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_19\\_6009](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_19_6009).

<sup>2925</sup> Towards a more secure and trusted cloud in Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/towards-more-secure-and-trusted-cloud-europe>

viable in Europe.<sup>2926</sup> It will ultimately make businesses, public administrations and individuals more confident that their data will be secure.<sup>2927</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the EU announced that it will grant EUR49 million for projects that increase the ability to counter cyber threats and the privacy of organizations and individuals within the digital sphere.<sup>2928</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the European Union announced that it will grant EUR41 million to develop innovative projects on improving digital security.<sup>2929</sup> The funding is aimed at developing new ways to increase digital security while also improving privacy and data protection.<sup>2930</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the European Union announced that it will grant EUR30 million to protect public infrastructure from cyber threats.<sup>2931</sup> The policy aims to reduce the capabilities of certain groups from using the internet as a means to generate harm in the physical and digital world.<sup>2932</sup> The grant is expected to cover 100 per cent of the costs to achieve this goal and the projects will take place over a two-year period.<sup>2933</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the European Commission adopted guidelines to further assist member states to enact the 2018 Audiovisual Media Services Directive, which aims to promote the cultural diversity of European media and protect users from hate speech and other harmful content.<sup>2934</sup> The newly released guidelines are meant to streamline and harmonize the Directive's implementation, which includes a minimum 30 per cent share of European content in on-demand media catalogues, and requires online platforms to take action against inappropriate content targeted at children as well as content which incites hatred, violence and terrorism.<sup>2935</sup>

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<sup>2926</sup> Towards a more secure and trusted cloud in Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/towards-more-secure-and-trusted-cloud-europe>

<sup>2927</sup> Towards a more secure and trusted cloud in Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/towards-more-secure-and-trusted-cloud-europe>

<sup>2928</sup> EU grants nearly €49 million to boost innovation in cybersecurity and privacy systems, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-grants-nearly-eu49-million-boost-innovation-cybersecurity-and-privacy-systems>

<sup>2929</sup> EU to dedicate nearly EUR 41 million to innovative projects on digital security, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-dedicate-nearly-eur-41-million-innovative-projects-digital-security>

<sup>2930</sup> EU to dedicate nearly EUR 41 million to innovative projects on digital security, European Commission (Brussels) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-dedicate-nearly-eur-41-million-innovative-projects-digital-security>

<sup>2931</sup> EU grants €38 million for protection of critical infrastructure against cyber threats, European Commission (Brussels) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-grants-eu38-million-protection-critical-infrastructure-against-cyber-threats>

<sup>2932</sup> EU grants €38 million for protection of critical infrastructure against cyber threats, European Commission (Brussels) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-grants-eu38-million-protection-critical-infrastructure-against-cyber-threats>

<sup>2933</sup> EU grants €38 million for protection of critical infrastructure against cyber threats, European Commission (Brussels) 15 June 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/eu-grants-eu38-million-protection-critical-infrastructure-against-cyber-threats>

<sup>2934</sup> Commission takes further steps to promote European audiovisual works and protect vulnerable viewers, European Commission (Brussels) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1209](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1209)

<sup>2935</sup> Commission takes further steps to promote European audiovisual works and protect vulnerable viewers, European Commission (Brussels) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 15 June 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1209](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1209)

On 30 July 2020, the Council of the European Union decided to impose sanctions, for the first time, against six individuals and three entities all involved in cyberattacks.<sup>2936</sup> The measures include banning travel, freezing assets and forbidding the provision of funds.<sup>2937</sup>

On 4 August 2020, the European Commission approved a EUR200 million voucher scheme for distribution to low-income families in Italy to help them in purchasing broadband access of at least 30 Megabits per second, as well as necessary devices and equipment.<sup>2938</sup> The announcement, which made reference to the increased need for digital access after the COVID pandemic, aims to enable eligible recipients to telework, access online education and seek other public services. The aid scheme is part of broader EU plans to improve social and territorial cohesion and increase economic growth through greater internet access, in order to heal the “digital divide.”<sup>2939</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to realizing a free, secure and open internet. Through various policy initiatives, the EU has embarked on projects to increase cybersecurity and reduce the possibility of threats from arising, thus realising a secure internet. It has also engaged in activities that make the internet more open to diverse populations. Finally, by releasing guidelines to advance the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, the EU has taken action to realize a free internet that promotes human rights.

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

*Analysts: Arshia Hassani and Jonathan Ku*

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<sup>2936</sup> State aid: Commission approves €200 million voucher scheme to support access to broadband services by low-income families in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1445](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1445)

<sup>2937</sup> EU imposes the first ever sanctions against cyber-attacks, Council of the EU (Brussels) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 17 August 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/07/30/eu-imposes-the-first-ever-sanctions-against-cyber-attacks/>

<sup>2938</sup> State aid: Commission approves €200 million voucher scheme to support access to broadband services by low-income families in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1445](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1445)

<sup>2939</sup> State aid: Commission approves €200 million voucher scheme to support access to broadband services by low-income families in Italy, European Commission (Brussels) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_1445](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_1445)

## 10. Labour and Employment: Opportunities for Youth

“We will also continue to promote employment opportunities for and employability of the young population.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
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			+1
Average		+0.90 (95%)	

### Background

Employment has been a key priority of the G20 since the second summit, in London in 2009. There the leaders committed to support those affected by the global financial crisis by creating employment opportunities, implementing income support measures and supporting support employment by stimulating growth, investing in education and training, and enacting active labour market policies, focusing on the most vulnerable.<sup>2940</sup> At Pittsburgh in 2009 G20 leaders pledged to implement recovery plans to support decent work, help preserve employment and prioritize job growth.<sup>2941</sup> They also promised to continue to provide income, social protection and training support for the unemployed and those most at risk of unemployment.

At Seoul in 2010 G20 leaders focused on implementing structural reforms to boost and sustain global demand, foster job creation, contribute to global rebalancing and increase growth potential.<sup>2942</sup> They agreed, where needed, including through education and training, to increase employment in

<sup>2940</sup> G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

<sup>2941</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>2942</sup> G20 Seoul Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

quality jobs, boost productivity and thereby enhance potential growth. They pledged to improve the development of employable skills matched to employer and labour market needs in order to attract investment, create decent jobs and increase productivity.

The 2011 Cannes Summit paid a lot of attention to employment issues as well. The leaders made decisions to make taxation more employment-friendly, promote youth employment, encourage the full respect of the fundamental principles and rights at work, and strengthen the social dimension of globalization.<sup>2943</sup>

Employment was the central issue for the Mexican presidency in 2012. At Los Cabos G20 leaders committed to strengthen cooperation in education, skills development and training policies, including internship and on-the-job training, to support a successful school-to-work transition.<sup>2944</sup> They also pledged to develop travel facilitation initiatives to support job creation, quality work, poverty reduction and global growth.

At St. Petersburg in 2013 employment remained in a focus. G20 leaders committed to continue efforts to support inclusive labour markets, with the exchange of country-specific plans or sets of actions, developed as appropriate according to their different constitutional circumstances.<sup>2945</sup> The leaders also expressed their intention to stimulate the creation of formal jobs through pro-growth structural reforms in product and labour markets, including by promoting labour market adaptability and efficiency, ensuring adequate labour protection, as well as appropriate tax regimes and other government initiatives that may be required according to national circumstances. Skills development, life-long learning, employment of vulnerable groups and especially young people, vocational training and other issues were also given attention in the St. Petersburg final documents.

In 2014 at Brisbane G20 leaders set the goal of reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in G20 members by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force significantly increase global growth.<sup>2946</sup> They also reaffirmed their commitment to reducing unemployment among the youth. Employment plans were adopted for the first time.

At Antalya in 2015 G20 leaders committed to reduce the share of young people who are most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15% by 2025 in G20 members.<sup>2947</sup> They reaffirmed the need to implement the employment plans adopted in Brisbane.

At Hangzhou in 2016 and Hamburg in 2017 the employment agenda shifted towards matching the work force skills with the demands of digital economy. These issues became the centre of attention during the Argentinian presidency in 2018. G20 leaders adopted the G20 Menu of Policy Options for the Future of Work, which included harnessing technology to strengthen growth and productivity, supporting people during transitions and addressing distributional challenges, securing sustainable tax

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<sup>2943</sup> Cannes Final Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 November 2011. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>2944</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>2945</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration St. Petersburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 6 September 2013. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

<sup>2946</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Brisbane, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

<sup>2947</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

systems, and ensure that the best possible evidence informs decision making.<sup>2948</sup> They also reaffirmed their commitment to building an inclusive, fair and sustainable future of work by promoting decent work, vocational training and skills development, including reskilling workers and improving labour conditions in all forms of employment. They recognized the importance of social dialogue in this area, including work delivered through digital platforms, with a focus on promoting labour formalization and making social protection systems strong and portable, subject to national law and circumstances. They also promised to continue fostering cognitive, digital and entrepreneurship skills, and encourage the collection and exchange of good practices. They pledged to promote increasing labour force participation of underrepresented as well as vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and implement policies to improve the employment situation of young people, consistent with their promise at Antalya to reduce the share of young people at risk of left behind in the labour market by 15% by 2025.

In 2018 at Buenos Aires leaders pledged to implement policies to improve the employment situation of young people, consistent with the G20 Antalya Youth Goal.<sup>2949</sup>

In 2019 at Osaka G20 leaders pledged to boost job creation and flexible work arrangements, seek to raise quality of employment and enhance employability of workers through lifelong learning as working lives are expected to be longer, and strive towards improving the working conditions for all, including long-term care workers in accordance with national circumstances. They also committed to promote employment opportunities for and employability of youth and focused on women's economic empowerment and employment in agriculture and tourism.

### **Commitment Features**

G20 leaders pledged to promote employment opportunities and employability for youth. This commitment has two components: improved employment opportunities for youth and increased employability of youth.

#### **Improved Employment Opportunities for Youth**

This aspect of the commitment requires G20 members to create opportunities for employing young people. It is aimed at the demand side of the labour market. Possible measures include providing incentives for the employers of young specialists, developing apprenticeship programs, organizing internship programs in government bodies, and providing incentives for private and public companies to offer internships.

#### **Increased Employability of Youth**

This aspect of the commitment requires G20 members to develop the skills in the young population that are required by the modern labour market. It is aimed at the supply side of the labour market.

Possible measures include financing upskilling and reskilling of young people, developing vocational training programs, developing new specializations in universities to match the needs of the digital economy and developing entrepreneurship programs for the youth.

To achieve full compliance, a G20 member is required to take actions in both priority areas.

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<sup>2948</sup> G20 Menu of Policy Options for Future of Work, G20 Framework Working Group, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 July 2018. Access Date: 4 April 2020

[http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20\\_menu\\_of\\_policy\\_options\\_for\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_work\\_0.pdf](http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/g20_menu_of_policy_options_for_the_future_of_work_0.pdf)

<sup>2949</sup> G20 Leaders' declaration. Building consensus for fair and sustainable development, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2020. Access date: 8 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member did not take any actions to promote youth employment by creating opportunities for youth employment or promoting skills development in youth.
0	G20 member took actions EITHER to create opportunities for youth employment OR to promote skills development in youth.
+1	G20 member took actions BOTH to create opportunities for youth employment AND to promote skills development in youth.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

In 2019, the Argentinian government held a number of job fairs for the young people in different provinces of the country. The aim of these fairs is to help young people prepare for the job search and provide the opportunity to train and receive expert advice to develop their projects. The priority is to continue provide them with tools to facilitate their insertion in quality jobs.<sup>2950</sup>

On 6 September 2019, the national government announced a 40 per cent increase in “Progresar” Scholarships. These educational scholarships benefit university students, vocational training and compulsory education from all over Argentina, and their objectives are to promote and accompany academic progress, achieve greater inclusion, promote careers in strategic areas for the economic and productive development of the country and stimulate students to advance their studies with better training.<sup>2951</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Employment adopted resolution 2021/2019, which launches the program facilitating the meetings with the leaders of youth trade unions. The main objective of the program is to create a space for dialogue, discussion and exchange between youth trade union leaders on issues related to the world of work and promoting their empowerment. The program has the following primary actions:

- a. Plans for training youth who are capable of occupying leadership positions in the medium term, both in the union and business spheres.
- b. Skill training spaces for a changing labour market, developing personal and group leadership skills in young people.
- c. Spaces for reflection on the central themes that make current management of work issues, and can promote discussions by productive sector.
- d. Research and debates on labour relations and the impact of changes in the ways of organizing production and work in the framework of the Future of Work.<sup>2952</sup>

<sup>2950</sup> La Plata: 4000 jóvenes visitaron la Feria Futuro, Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 13 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-plata-4000-jovenes-visitaron-la-feria-futuro>

<sup>2951</sup> El Gobierno nacional anunció un aumento del 40% en las Becas Progresar, Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 6 September 2019. Access date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-anuncio-un-aumento-del-40-en-las-becas-progresar>

<sup>2952</sup> Resolución 2021/2019, Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 30 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/220438/20191101>

On 20 November 2019, the National Action Plan “Young Safe Work” for Argentina was presented. This national action plan adopts the guidelines of a project promoted by the International Labour Organization’s Country Office for Argentina, called Young Safe Work: Building a Generation of Safe and Healthy Workers, which also has funding from the United States Department of Labor. The project will work on research, training and policy.<sup>2953</sup>

On 8 July 2020, an inter-ministerial agreement was signed to promote youth employment in the environmental sector. With the impulse of the ministries, it seeks to promote actions of accompaniment, support and promotion of sustainable jobs with a positive impact on the environment. In this way, decent work and quality employment are also promoted, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women from different social sectors.<sup>2954</sup>

On 4 September 2020, a virtual meeting was held with 300 young people who began the virtual courses of Support for Employability within the framework of the Youth with More and Better Work program of the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security. The Youth with More and Better Work program provides tools to unemployed young people between the ages of 18 and 24 to contribute to their access to the world of work.<sup>2955</sup>

Argentina took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 13 March 2020, the Australian government announced its Economic Response to the Coronavirus package, which included measures to support the employment of apprentices and trainees.<sup>2956</sup> The measure provides for a 50 per cent subsidy for wages paid to apprentices between January to March 2020 for employers and is available to small businesses.<sup>2957</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment announced the launch of the second round of the Australian government’s Commonwealth Scholarships Program for Young Australians. The scholarships under the program offer vocational education and training grants of up to AUD10,000 plus AUD3,000 for a work placement or internship. The Commonwealth

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<sup>2953</sup> Se presentó el Plan de Acción Nacional “Trabajo Seguro Joven” para Argentina, Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 20 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-presento-el-plan-de-accion-nacional-trabajo-seguro-joven-para-argentina-0>

<sup>2954</sup> Se firmó un convenio interministerial para impulsar el empleo de jóvenes en el sector Ambiental, , Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 8 July 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-firmo-un-convenio-interministerial-para-impulsar-el-empleo-de-jovenes-en-el-sector>

<sup>2955</sup> Se realizó un encuentro virtual con jóvenes que participan en cursos virtuales de empleabilidad, Government of Argentina (Buenos-Aires) 4 September 2020. Access date: 1 October 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-un-encuentro-virtual-con-jovenes-que-participan-en-cursos-virtuales-de>

<sup>2956</sup> Economic Response to the Coronavirus, Australian Government (Canberra) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Overview-Economic\\_Response\\_to\\_the\\_Coronavirus\\_2.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Overview-Economic_Response_to_the_Coronavirus_2.pdf).

<sup>2957</sup> Supporting Apprentices and Trainees, Department of Education, skills and Employment of the Australian Government (Canberra) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.employment.gov.au/supporting-apprentices-and-trainees>.



Scholarships Program for Young Australians is a part of the Australian government's AUD585 million Delivering Skills for Today and Tomorrow package.<sup>2958</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the Australian government announced its intention to invest AUD2 billion in building new skills, retraining and upskilling Australian across multiple sectors. AUD500 million is slated for a new AUD1 billion JobTrainer Fund (the rest of the funding is provided by states and territories). This fund was designed to provide around 340,00 additional training places “to help school leavers and job seekers gain the skills they need to get a job”. Further AUD1.5 billion will be made available to expand and extend the Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy to small and medium-sized enterprises employing apprentices.<sup>2959</sup>

Australia took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 25 October 2019, Special Secretariat for Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness (Sepec) of the Ministry of Economy launched the first stage of the professional qualification policy for the youth. In the first stage, 2,000 unemployed youths, between 18 and 29 years old, will be selected.<sup>2960</sup> Of this total 800 will be enrolled in the courses and the remaining 1,200 will form the so-called control group — the basis of comparison for employability. The goal of the program is facilitating employability of unemployed young people, in an amount equal to or greater than 8 per cent compared to the control group, through professional qualification for 800 young people.<sup>2961</sup>

On 11 November 2019, the government launched the Green Yellow Program. It aims at encouraging the hiring of young people, the insertion of people with disabilities and rehabilitated (workers who had to leave professional activities due to an accident or illness) and microcredit for low-income people. The set of measures is expected to benefit about four million people in three years. The initiative should be responsible for the opening of 1.8 million vacancies in a period of three years. As a way to encourage companies to hire these workers, the government will remove or reduce some employers' payroll obligations. Employers will not, for example, need to pay the employer's contribution to the National Institute of Social Security (20 per cent on payroll), System S rates and the education allowance.<sup>2962</sup>

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<sup>2958</sup> Commonwealth Scholarships Program skilling young Australians for the future, Department of Education, skills and Employment of the Australian Government (Canberra) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

<https://www.employment.gov.au/newsroom/commonwealth-scholarships-program-skilling-young-australians-future>.

<sup>2959</sup> JobTrainer package announced, Australian Government (Canberra) 16 July 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/news/jobtrainer-package-announced>.

<sup>2960</sup> Edital do Governo pretende inserir jovens do mercado de trabalho, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 30 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/trabalho-e-previdencia/2019/10/edital-do-governo-pretende-inserir-jovens-do-mercado-de-trabalho>

<sup>2961</sup> Pregão Eletrônico Nº 8/2019 — UASG 170607, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 25 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/web/dou/-/aviso-de-licitacao-223909091>

<sup>2962</sup> Programa #VerdeAmarelo deve beneficiar 4 milhões de pessoas em três anos, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 11 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/acompanhe-o-planalto/noticias/2019/11/programa-verdeamarelo-deve-beneficiar-4-milhoes-de-pessoas-em-tres-anos>

On 27 November 2019, it was announced that Ministry of Citizenship will invest up to BRL500,000 in the development of professional qualification courses for young people between 14 and 21 years old who are enrolled in the Single Registry and who comply with socio-educational measures in a closed regime. The transfer, through the National Secretariat for Social Inclusion and Urban Productivity, will be made after a selection process involving the municipalities that are part of the Em Frente, Brasil program, chosen by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, due to the high crime rates.<sup>2963</sup>

Brazil took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 3 March 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an investment through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy aimed at helping young Canadians “who are facing barriers to employment.” The initiative provides financial support for job placements and skills development services to young people, as well as job coaching services, mental health support, clothes for job interviews, daycare services for parents, and subsidized internet access to help with job searches. Overall, the Government of Canada provides CAD492 million through the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy. The strategy includes measures in skills development, career coaching and work experience attainment.<sup>2964</sup>

On 8 April 2020 Prime Minister Trudeau announced temporary changes to Canada Summer Jobs program for 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The program provides paid opportunities for all youth between the ages of 15 and 30 to develop and improve their skills within the not-for-profit, small business and public sectors. The program also supports the delivery of key community services to Canadians. The flexibilities introduced in 2020 include allowing employers to offer part-time positions, and an extension of the hiring period to the end of February 2021.<sup>2965</sup>

On 15 May 2020, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough launched the hiring period for Canada Summer Jobs 2020 initiative. Through the initiative, the job opportunities available across the country are being posted to the Job Bank website. The initiative is aimed at young Canadians looking for summer jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>2966</sup>

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<sup>2963</sup> Ministério da Cidadania investe em cursos de qualificação profissional de jovens, , Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 27 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2019/11/em-frente-brasil-ministerio-da-cidadania-investe-ate-r-500-mil-para-capacitacao-de-jovens>

<sup>2964</sup> The Prime Minister announces investment to help young people get jobs, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/03/prime-minister-announces-investment-help-young-people-get-jobs>.

<sup>2965</sup> Canada Summer Jobs start rolling out to keep young people working during COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/05/canada-summer-jobs-start-rolling-out-to-keep-young-people-working-during-covid-19.html>.

<sup>2966</sup> Canada Summer Jobs start rolling out to keep young people working during COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/05/canada-summer-jobs-start-rolling-out-to-keep-young-people-working-during-covid-19.html>.

On 11 September 2020, the Government of Canada announced new support measures for the young people seeking employment. The Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, Catherine McKenna, announced that Project Learning Tree Canada's Green Jobs Initiative will receive nearly CAD7.8 million under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS). This will provide green job opportunities to 1,200 youth across Canada who face barriers to employment, including Indigenous youth, newcomers and youth from rural or remote communities.<sup>2967</sup>

Canada took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **China: 0**

China has partially complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 10 September 2019, the Chinese town Manzhouli hosted the first China-Russia-Mongolia forum on youth entrepreneurship. The three-day event is aimed at promotion of cooperation among young entrepreneurs of the three countries. On the margins of the event, 12 joint projects worth more than RMB600 million were approved. These projects would promote transboundary investment cooperation, boost agricultural production, etc.<sup>2968</sup>

On 15 October 2019, the South China University of Technology, a public university, launched an initiative aimed at promotion of youth innovative entrepreneurship among Chinese and Russian youth. There were 11 participants from Russia. The participants visited several key innovative facilities of Guangzhou including a mainframe computer.<sup>2969</sup>

China is taking steps aimed at increasing employability of the youth, but no evidence proving that China is improving employment opportunities for younger generation has been found.<sup>2970</sup>

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 21 November 2019, Minister of Labour Muriel Pénicaud launched My Training Account, the new public service for vocational training. It will benefit 25 million employees and job seekers will benefit from the first day.<sup>2971</sup>

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<sup>2967</sup> Government of Canada COVID-19 measures delivering support for young people this fall, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 11 September 2020. Access date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/announcement-in-ottawa-on-support-for-canadian-youth-facing-barriers-to-employment-and-schooling.html>.

<sup>2968</sup> The First China-Russia-Mongolia Youth Entrepreneurship Forum Held in Manzhouli, People's Daily Online 12 September 2019 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. <http://russian.people.com.cn/n3/2019/0912/c31516-9614398.html>

<sup>2969</sup> Russia-China Youth Entrepreneurship Exchange Program Started in Guangzhou, People's Daily Online 16 October 2019 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. <http://russian.people.com.cn/n3/2019/1016/c31516-9623165.html>

<sup>2970</sup> Websites of The Chinese Central Government's Official Web Portal, The State Council of the People's Republic of China, News Agency Xinhua as well as open sources were used.

On 6 February 2020, the government renewed its commitment to vocational education by announcing the 23 winners of the Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications call for projects. Among them, 12 campuses benefit from the support of the Investments for the Future Program. As part of the Investments for the Future Program, 24 applications were eligible; 12 campuses were finally selected for a total funding request of 26 million euros. Among them, project leaders coming from all over France whose ambitions vary according to the territory concerned such as:

- The University of Rennes 1 offers, for example, the creation and promotion of training courses that meet the needs expressed by companies in the digital and photonics field.
- In the French overseas departments and territories, the University of Reunion aims to gradually deploy devices and actions to increase the skills of professionals and apprentices in the field of digital construction.
- In Île-de-France, the Community of Universities and Establishments Paris-Seine plans to bring together players of excellence in training with those of culture and creation in order to raise the general level in the field culture and fostering the transmission and professionalization of art and heritage professions.<sup>2972</sup>

On 23 July 2020, French Prime Minister Jean Castex unveiled an “innovative” EUR6.5 million “youth plan” to help young people particularly hard hit by the coronavirus crisis to become employed. The plan focuses on encouraging companies to hire youngsters through financial incentives. Companies hiring someone under the age of 25, between August 2020 and January 2021, will get a EUR4,000 rebate on its social charges bill. The government hopes to sign 450,000 contracts of this type in 2020. It also encourages companies to hire apprentices: EUR5,000 for hiring an apprentice (alternating work and study) under the age of 18 and EUR8,000 for one over 18. The government also created 200,000 new places in vocational higher education where students could study for an extra term or year. For those struggling the most to find work, 300,000 individualised programmes will be set up as part of the “1jeune1solution” (a youngster, a solution) plan. The system of civic service will be reinforced, offering 100,000 extra assignments in a range of charities and associations.<sup>2973</sup>

France has taken actions in both priority areas related to youth employment.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

In 2019, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) implemented the project of youth employment promotion in Serbia. The project focused on improving the employment

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<sup>2971</sup> Lancement de Mon Compte Formation : le nouveau service public de la formation professionnelle, Ministry of Labour (Paris) 21 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://travail-emploi.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/invitations-presse/article/lancement-de-mon-compte-formation-le-nouveau-service-public-de-la-formation>

<sup>2972</sup> 12 Campus des Métiers et des Qualifications soutenus par le Programme d'investissements d'avenir (PIA), Government of France (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access date: 10 May 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/12-campus-des-metiers-et-des-qualifications-soutenus-par-le-programme-d-investissements-d-avenir-pia>

<sup>2973</sup> French government unveils €6.5 billion plan to help young unemployed, RFI 23 July 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200723-french-government-unveils-€6-5-billion-plan-to-help-young-unemployed>.

prospects of young people in deprived regions, taking into account both their needs and the requirements of the labour market. In addition to providing advice tailored to individual needs, the project also set up services for developing social enterprises in order to improve access to and participation in the labour market for disadvantaged population groups. The project promoted cooperation between local and national partners, with the aim of assisting local employment initiatives in passing on their knowledge and recommendations to those responsible at national level. This was intended to initiate a dialogue on youth employment between ministries, institutions, experts, young people and employers.<sup>2974</sup>

In 2019-2020, GIZ in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Professional Integration of Morocco implemented the project aimed at employment promotion in Morocco's rural areas. It includes the following measures: observation of local labour market conditions and dialogue at a provincial level; expansion of the network of vocational advice centres to support and help place young job-seekers, and to provide assistance to young entrepreneurs; measures for improving employability, particularly by means of short-term training courses that are adapted for rural areas. The project supports key actors in employment promotion at national and regional levels. This contributes to the permanent establishment of dialogue aimed at disseminating the model and to securing funding via national and regional partners. The project is expected to provide support to 3,000 young people.<sup>2975</sup>

On 6 February 2020, South Africa and Germany signed a joint initiative on the promotion of vocational training aimed at tackling the high unemployment rate in South Africa. German Chancellor Angela Merkel mentioned that education and training of young people are very important for employment, and Germany would like to support South Africa in this regard.<sup>2976</sup>

Germany has taken actions in both priority areas related to youth employment. Given the low level of youth and overall unemployment in the country, its actions have been focused mainly on assisting other states.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

## **India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 4 October 2019, the Government of India's endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship — AIM NITI Aayog and UNDP India launched the initiative to accelerate youth-led social entrepreneurship and innovation in India. Through Youth Co:Lab, young entrepreneurs and innovators will get a change to connect with governments, mentors, incubators and investors, who will help equip them with entrepreneurial skills. The initiative will also convene a series of youth

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<sup>2974</sup> Youth Employment Promotion in Serbia, German Corporation for International Cooperation. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/38765.html>.

<sup>2975</sup> Promoting youth employment in rural areas (PEJ II), German Corporation for International Cooperation. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/33842.html>.

<sup>2976</sup> SA, Germany partner to address youth unemployment, South African Government News Agency 6 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sa-germany-partner-address-youth-unemployment>.

dialogues across several cities such as New Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai to promote entrepreneurship across India.<sup>2977</sup>

On 2 November 2019, the national initiative YuWaah aimed at imparting skills among the youth and providing employment to more than 300 million young Indians was launched by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani with an alliance of national and international partners. Supported by UNICEF, Generation Unlimited brings young people together with the private sector, governments, international and local organisations to tackle the urgent challenge of investing in their learning and training so that they are prepared for the complex and fast-changing world of work and can be active and engaged citizens.<sup>2978</sup>

India is taking steps aimed at increasing employability of the youth, but no evidence proving that China is improving employment opportunities for younger generation has been found.<sup>2979</sup>

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 6 September 2019, the Ministry of Finance issued Regulation No. 128 of 2019 (GR 128, 2019), which sets out tax incentives for businesses that invest in developing talent in Indonesia. The Regulation is specific to the incentives offered for training programs, and clarifies that human resource development activities include apprenticeships, work experience programs, vocational programs, and learning activities.<sup>2980</sup>

On 12 March 2020, Indonesia's Ministry of Manpower, the National Professional Certification Agency, and Bank Indonesia signed a memorandum of understanding for a new framework looking to standardize competencies for financial service providers and uplift the level of local talent in the banking sector. The framework will be implemented in stages starting 1 July 2020 and will be aimed accelerating the establishment of job training institutions and professional certification in the banking sector, among other things.<sup>2981</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the Indonesian government officially launched the pre-employment card for young job seekers. In 2020 State Budget, President Joko Widodo announced IDR10 trillion (USD645.16 million) for the new stimulus package with incentives for job seekers with age between 18 to 24 years.<sup>2982</sup> The pre-employment card program addresses skill shortages, which have become a

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<sup>2977</sup> AIM NITI Aayog, UNDP India join hands to accelerate youth-led social entrepreneurship, innovation in India, UNDP India (New Delhi) 4 October 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020.

[https://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Atal\\_Innovation\\_Mission.html](https://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/Atal_Innovation_Mission.html)

<sup>2978</sup> 'YuWaah' youth skilling initiative to provide jobs to 300 million launched by Unicef, central govt, India Today (Delhi) 2 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/news/story/-yuwaah-youth-skilling-initiative-to-provide-jobs-to-300-million-launched-by-unicef-central-govt-1615101-2019-11-02>

<sup>2979</sup> Websites of Press Information Bureau, Indian government, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports as well as open sources were used.

<sup>2980</sup> Tax Incentives for Developing Talent in Indonesia 10 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020.

<https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/tax-incentives-for-developing-talent-in-indonesia/>

<sup>2981</sup> Skills update in Indonesia: New framework launched for banking sector talent 12 March 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.humanresourcesonline.net/skills-update-in-indonesia-new-framework-launched-for-banking-sector-talent/>

<sup>2982</sup> Indonesia Launches Pre-Employment Card for Young Job Seekers 20 March 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://theinsiderstories.com/indonesia-launches-pre-employment-card-for-young-job-seekers/>

problem in the country's workforce makeup, as the education system has failed to produce graduates with the skills needed by industry. Unemployment rates of graduates of vocational high schools, that are meant to train students for specific jobs standing at 8.63 per cent of the workforce in February 2019, according to Statistics Indonesia.<sup>2983</sup>

Indonesia took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 31 July 2019, the Italian Ministry of Labour and Social Policies reported that nearly 1.5 million Italian youth were registered in the Garanzia Giovani (Youth Guarantee) program as of 30 June 2019.<sup>2984</sup> The program is a European Union initiative, realized in Italy through the ministry's National Operative Program Youth Employment Initiative. Under this program all registered youth are offered a guarantee of quality employment opportunity within four months after the completion of education, apprenticeship or loss of employment.<sup>2985</sup>

On 14 February 2020, Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced a new long-term plan for territorial development of the southern part of the country — Piano Sud 2030. One of the primary pillars of the plan is to scale up the efforts to improve education and workforce participation of the youth. The Italian government plans to invest approximately EUR123 billion until 2030, with EUR21 billion spent in 2020-2022.<sup>2986</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the General Director for Social Support and Education issued a decree allocating EUR15 million for supporting apprenticeships in all regions of Italy.<sup>2987</sup>

On 31 July 2020, the Italian Minister of Technological Innovation and Digitalization signed the decree approving the National Digital Skills Strategy. The strategy provides for the development of digital skills among the young people and students in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the ministry for Universities and Research.<sup>2988</sup>

Italy took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

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<sup>2983</sup> 'It will be like Go-Food': Jobseekers in Java to get pre-employment cards in April 18 February 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/18/it-will-be-like-go-food-jobseekers-in-java-to-get-pre-employment-cards-in-april.html>

<sup>2984</sup> Garanzia giovani, al 30 giugno 2019 sono quasi 1,5 milioni i giovani registrati al programma, Garanzia Giovani (Rome) 31 July 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <http://www.garanzীগiovani.gov.it/EventiNews/News/Pagine/2019/Garanzia-Giovani-al-30-giugno-2019-sono-quasi-1-5-milioni-i-giovani-registrati-al-programma.aspx>.

<sup>2985</sup> Programma operativo nazionale Iniziativa Occupazione Giovani, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome). Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/temi-e-priorita/europa-e-fondi-europei/focus-on/pon-Iniziativa-occupazione-giovani-Garanzia-giovani/Pagine/default.aspx>.

<sup>2986</sup> Piano Sud 2030, le risorse, Italian Government (Rome) 15 February 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <http://www.governo.it/it/approfondimento/piano-sud-2030-le-risorse/14098>.

<sup>2987</sup> Decreto di ripartizione risorse Annualità 2019: d.d. n. 4 del 24 marzo 2020, Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/documenti-e-norme/normative/Documents/2020/DD-n-4-del-24032020-apprend-visti-Ucb-Cdc.pdf>

<sup>2988</sup> Strategia Nazionale per le Competenze Digitali, Italian Ministry of Technological Innovation and Digitalization (Rome) 31 July 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://innovazione.gov.it/assets/docs/DTD-1277-A-ALL1.pdf>.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on labour and employment.

According to the World Bank, youth unemployment in Japan in 2019 was at low 4.1 per cent, compared to 12.3 per cent average for high income countries and 11.9 per cent for members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.<sup>2989</sup> This implies the issue of youth employment is not very pressing in Japan.

On 28 June 2019, Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu met Union Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Mahendranath Pandey in New Delhi to discuss potential upscaling of a Technical Internship Training Programme to empower the Indian youth with more technical skills and increase their employment opportunities.<sup>2990</sup>

On 8 August 2019, it was reported that Japan's government started developing a system to engage socially withdrawn shut-ins under the age of 40 and children who refuse to attend school so that they could consult local governments and 97 local consultation centres for children and young people via social networking services, with the goal to lead young people to returning to school or finding employment.<sup>2991</sup>

On 17 July 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a grant agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek to provide grant aid of up to JPY302 million for the Human Resource Development Scholarship project.<sup>2992</sup>

On 29 July 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency signed a grant agreement with the government of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, to provide grant aid of up to JPY2,726 billion for the Project for the Japan-Myanmar Aung San Vocational Training Institute that with Japanese expertise will serve as model school for the training of skilled workers in line with the requirements of the labour market and industry in Myanmar.<sup>2993</sup>

On 19 August 2019, it was reported that Japan's labour ministry had decided to expand the scope of its youth job support initiative to cover people up to age 50 to cope with an increase in middle-aged people out of work; extension of the program for comprehensive employment support, which includes consultations, work experience programs and job interview training at 177 support stations nationwide, was scheduled to start from April 2020.<sup>2994</sup>

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<sup>2989</sup> World Bank Data, Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SL.UEM.1524.ZS>

<sup>2990</sup> India, Japan discuss strengthening collaboration in skill development, The Economic Times 28 June 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-japan-discuss-strengthening-collaboration-in-skill-development/articleshow/69993926.cms>

<sup>2991</sup> Japanese gov't aims to help young social recluses with SNS consultation system, The Mainichi 8 August 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20190808/p2a/00m/Ona/014000c>

<sup>2992</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with the Kyrgyz Republic: Rebuilding a bridge on a highway to contribute to smooth logistics and providing young government officials with opportunities to learn from Japan's wide-ranging experiences, JICA 18 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/2019071821.html>

<sup>2993</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Myanmar: Contributing to human resource development through the development of a vocational training institute employing Japanese expertise, JICA 30 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190729\\_11\\_eg.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190729_11_eg.html)

<sup>2994</sup> Youth job support program to cover unemployed Japanese up to 50 years old, Japan Times 19 August 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/08/19/business/youth-job-support-program-cover-unemployed-japanese-50-years-old/#.XnjhHeozapp>



On 30 October 2019, Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry opened a call for applicants for the Young Professionals Japan Program, with the goal to foster human resources in the field of international standardization who are able to exercise leadership in negotiations at meetings of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission.<sup>2995</sup>

On 24 February 2020, the Japanese Ambassador to Rwanda Masahiro Imai signed grant contracts with two Rwandan non-profit organizations worth around USD400,000, to finance the road repairing skills among youth and the construction of new classrooms for a primary school in Nyanza District.<sup>2996</sup>

On 26 February 2020, it was reported that Japan's government pledged almost USD900,000 as grant for development assistance in Cambodia, including for the purposes of youth capacity building.<sup>2997</sup>

On 3 March 2020, Japanese Ambassador to Iraq Hashimoto Naofumi and Representative of UNESCO to Iraq Paolo Fontani signed an agreement in Baghdad in support of the project to support job creation for youth in Mosul; the project aims to foster sustainable job creation for youth through quality training for skilled construction workers; Japan's investment in this project will amount to USD41 million.<sup>2998</sup>

Japan took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth, thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

#### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 18 September 2019, the government announced its proposals to improve the situation of the key workforce amid declining and aging population. The mid-term goal of the proposals is to create better working conditions for younger generation as well as elderly. One of the plans under review is the introduction of an incentive system, allowing long-term residence to qualified foreign national workers. Candidates will be selected upon the recommendation of technical colleges and manufacturing industries in underpopulated areas.<sup>2999</sup>

On 1 June 2020, Korea has announced a New Deal plan of economic recovery implying \$US 62 billion support package. The programme is aimed at creation of 550,000 jobs by 2022, including

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<sup>2995</sup> Call for Applicants for the Young Professionals Japan Program, Japan's METI 30 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1030\\_003.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2019/1030_003.html)

<sup>2996</sup> Two local NGOs secure Rwf 360m Japanese funding for education, roads, The New Times 24 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.newtimes.co.rw/latest-news/two-local-ngos-secure-rwf-360m-japanese-funding-education-roads>

<sup>2997</sup> Japan pledges nearly \$900,000 to improve Kingdom's agriculture, Khmer Times 26 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50695195/japan-pledges-nearly-900000-to-improve-kingdoms-agriculture>

<sup>2998</sup> Japan, UNESCO agreement on Job Creation for Youth in Mosul, MENAFN 7 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://menafn.com/1099817907/Japan-UNESCO-agreement-on-Job-Creation-for-Youth-in-Mosul>

<sup>2999</sup> S. Korea to revamp workforce system amid population decline, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 18 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20190918000718&np=99&mp=10>

100,000 jobs in artificial intelligence and software programming. Investment will also support startups focusing on green technologies.<sup>3000</sup>

Korea is taking steps aimed at increasing employability of the youth as well as improving employment opportunities for younger generation.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 7 August 2019, Minister of Labour and Social Security Luisa María Alcalde Luján invited the private sector to continue working hand in hand to support the job placement of apprentices who will complete their training in 2020.<sup>3001</sup>

On 12 August 2019, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development announced that the beneficiaries of the Production for Well-Being Program have the opportunity to designate a young person, whether it be their son, grandson, nephew, neighbor or acquaintance, as an apprentice; so that they participate in the work of cultivation and harvesting of corn, beans, or cornfields. Young people will receive a monthly scholarship of MXN3,600 provided by the Youth Building the Future Program, of the Ministry of Labour and also firm technical training aimed at assuming sustainable agricultural practices, friendly to the environment by the Undersecretariat of Food and Competitiveness.<sup>3002</sup>

On 7 October 2019, civil association Fondo Unido Chihuahua and the College of Technical Professional Education of Chihuahua, through the Technological Assistance and Services Centres, signed a collaboration agreement for the implementation of the project called General Technical Training Program, which main objective is to train and link young people from vulnerable areas with employers, focusing efforts on the current demand of the industrial sector.<sup>3003</sup>

On 4 November 2019, the Agrarian Attorney's Office incorporated in its structure young professionals who will contribute, through their field training, to sustainable rural development, as well as to the fulfillment of the goals, programs and objectives established by the Institution for the benefit of the inhabitants of the rural environment.<sup>3004</sup>

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<sup>3000</sup> South Korea Unveils \$62 Billion 'New Deal' to Reshape Post-Virus Economy, Bloomberg 01 June 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-06-01/south-korea-unveils-62-bln-post-virus-plan-to-reshape-economy>

<sup>3001</sup> Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro ha cerrado las brechas de competencias laborales en México: Luisa Alcalde, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-ha-cerrado-las-brechas-de-competencia-laboral-en-mexico-luisa-alcalde>

<sup>3002</sup> Jóvenes: el futuro del campo mexicano, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 12 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/agricultura/es/articulos/jovenes-el-futuro-del-campo-mexicano?idiom=es>

<sup>3003</sup> Implementarán programa de capacitación técnica en CAST CONALEP, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 7 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/conalep/es/articulos/implementaran-programa-de-capacitacion-tecnica-en-cast-conalep?idiom=es>

<sup>3004</sup> Procuraduría Agraria incorpora a Becarios Campesinos, como parte del Programa "Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro", Mexican Government (Mexico City) 4 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/pa/articulos/procuraduria-agraria-incorpora-a-becarios-campesinos-como-parte-del-programa-jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro?idiom=es>

On 5 November 2019, Undersecretary of Employment Horacio Duarte presented before authorities of Honduras, the operation mechanism that allows apprentices to gain experience in the labor market in companies, workshops and businesses in 2,457 municipalities in the country.<sup>3005</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Undersecretary of Employment of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Horacio Duarte Olivares presented the Month 13 strategy that will allow Youth Building the Future programme fellows to complete their employment relationship, obtain a job, undertake projects for self-employment or resume their studies. Upon completing their job training, the scholarship holders will be able to obtain a certification, as well as face-to-face online courses to expand their knowledge. The National Employment Service will promote the entry to the Job Bank with more than 60,000 jobs to offer, face-to-face and personalized attention so that they can find a job opportunity.<sup>3006</sup>

On 5 March 2020, it was announced that graduates of Youth Building the Future may join the Tandas for Well-Being program. It means that young people trained in 2019 will be able to apply for a first credit to the floor, without interest, to create a micro-business.<sup>3007</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (STPS) guarantees that all the apprentices of the Youth Building the Future Program will continue their job training and will receive, in a timely manner, the scholarship monthly of 3,748 pesos.<sup>3008</sup>

On 12 August 2020, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare offered a range of options for young people to increase their employability, through the programme Month 13. Month 13 is a strategy that offers the apprentices graduated from the Youth Building the Future Program a set of options, once they have completed the 12 months of their training. The agency made several alliances with different instances that range from job boards, courses and microcredits to start a business.<sup>3009</sup>

Mexico took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth, thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

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<sup>3005</sup> Exporta STPS el Programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro a Centroamérica; presenta alcances a comitiva de Honduras, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 5 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/exporta-stps-el-programa-jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-a-centroamerica-presenta-alcances-a-comitiva-de-honduras?idiom=es-MX>

<sup>3006</sup> Presenta STPS estrategia nacional “Mes 13” para Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro ante titulares de Trabajo de todo el país, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 16 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/presenta-stps-estrategia-nacional-mes-13-para-jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-ante-titulares-de-trabajo-de-todo-el-pais-232060>

<sup>3007</sup> Egresados de “Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro” podrán incorporarse a las “Tandas para el Bienestar”, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 5 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/se/articulos/egresados-de-jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro-podran-incorporarse-a-las-tandas-para-el-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>3008</sup> El Gobierno de México garantiza apoyo económico y operación del programa Jóvenes Construyendo el Futuro, Mexican Government 20 March 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/el-gobierno-de-mexico-garantiza-apoyo-economico-y-operacion-del-programa-jovenes-construyendo-el-futuro>

<sup>3009</sup> STPS ofrece abanico de opciones para que los jóvenes aumenten su empleabilidad, a través de Mes 13, Mexican Government 12 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/stps/prensa/stps-ofrece-abanico-de-opciones-para-que-los-jovenes-aumenten-su-empleabilidad-a-traves-de-mes-13>

On 19 July 2019, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection informed on a set of measures to socialize young people who need special care of the state to be carried out in July-August 2019. The main events were the Wings of Opportunity Inclusive platforms held in Novosibirsk on 29 July and in Arkhangelsk on 1 August. On 26-29 August, the Wings of Opportunity All-Russian Creative Studio was held in Moscow. The main objectives of the events were to identify problems facing modern youth with disabilities and preventing comfortable social adaptation, creative and professional development, self-realization in the modern world, as well as finding the most effective and creative solutions to the problems identified. The participants were young people aged 18 to 30, heads of relevant departments and public organizations dealing with problems of people with disabilities; leaders of socially oriented non-profit organizations; and regional opinion leaders.<sup>3010</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Russian Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection Alexei Cherkasov took part in the roundtable on the Future of the Youth Labor Sphere: Strategic Partnerships in the Field of Youth Employment on the margins of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The event was co-organized by Russia's Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the International Labour Organization. According to Minister Cherkasov, almost 2.5 million people half of whom are aged 14-29 annually receive public career guidance services in Russia. He also mentioned that Russia carries out work to increase the prestige of working professions and technical specialties. To organize direct interaction between employers and graduates of colleges and universities, state employment service agencies regularly hold job fairs and trainings fairs. Minister Cherkasov said one of the directions of ensuring youth employment is the organization of internships for graduates. Executive bodies of all levels cooperate with employers to develop human resources through attracting young people to working professions, and promoting initiatives to preserve and develop the human resources of organizations.<sup>3011</sup>

On 13 November 2019, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Oksana Lut informed that in 2020 the Ministry of Agriculture would implement the program "Integrated development of rural areas" worth RUB36 billion. It is aimed, inter alia, at employment promotion, particularly for youth. Enterprises in the agribusiness sector will send 1,236 people to targeted training to support youth employment, and state support for training 6,700 students in this sector would be provided.<sup>3012</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection determined competitive nominations of the All-Russian contest of professional skills Best in Profession for 2020. Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Protection and Deputy Chair of the Organizing Committee of the competition Vsevolod Vukolov stressed the need to popularize the competition among young people and recommended that regional executive authorities attract youth, including from technical and vocational schools and institutions to the federal stages of the competition. It is in line with the objective of the competition assistance to attract young people to studies and jobs in working professions.<sup>3013</sup>

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<sup>3010</sup> A set of measures on "Socialization of youth in need of special care of the state", Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 29 July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://rosmintrud.ru/events/1260>.

<sup>3011</sup> Deputy Minister Alexei Cherkasov: Russia will continue to work actively to promote youth employment, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 24 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://rosmintrud.ru/employment/cooperation/14>.

<sup>3012</sup> On the progress of activities aimed at developing rural areas and improving the quality of life of rural residents, as part of the implementation of national projects, Government of the Russian Federation 13 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://government.ru/news/38321/>.

<sup>3013</sup> Nominations for the Best in Profession Contest for 2020 Determined, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 15 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://rosmintrud.ru/labour/relationship/370>.

On 25 December 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection summed up the results of the All-Russian 2019 contest “Best Personnel Practices and Initiatives in the System of State and Municipal Administration.” The purpose was to identify and disseminate best personnel practices in the state and municipal governments. One category of the contest is “Career guidance, volunteering and youth engagement (internships and apprenticeships).”<sup>3014</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin held a meeting on the situation on the labor market. He instructed regional governors to ensure monitoring of the situation on the labor market and measures taken to promote employment. Special attention will be paid to the employment of graduates and young people looking for jobs for the first time.<sup>3015</sup>

Russia has taken actions in both priority areas related to youth employment.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sheleпов*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 9 December 2019, the Saudi Minister of Labour and Social Development amended the Saudization job promotion program. The Nitaqat program is aimed at promotion of Saudi nationals’ employment in private sector. The amendments include changes in the system of attribution of private companies that defines a company’s status: platinum, red and green (the yellow category has been abolished). The minister explained the decision as a measure encouraging companies to move into higher categories that would increase employability.<sup>3016</sup>

On 26 December 2019, the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority announced the launch of its specialized program, the Professional Learning Partnership, in support of the financial services industry. The program targets recent Saudi accounting or finance graduates of accredited local or international universities. The program aims at equipping graduates with practical skills and knowledge to boost their professional opportunities in the banking industry.<sup>3017</sup>

On 14 January 2020, the Saudi Human Resource Development Fund (Hadaf) launched a youth employment in private sector promotion program. Hadaf would provide selected young specialists with a competitive monthly wage that would provide the Saudi youth with extra employment opportunities and working experience.<sup>3018</sup>

On 14 July 2020, Saudi Arabia has launched a programme to promote Saudi nationals’ employment. The government would provide USD 178 million loans to help businesses amid COVID-19

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<sup>3014</sup> The winners of the contest of best personnel practices and initiatives in the system of state and municipal government, Russian Ministry of Labour and Social Protection 25 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://rosmintrud.ru/labour/29>.

<sup>3015</sup> Decisions following a meeting on the situation on the labor market, Government of Russia 3 July 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. <http://government.ru/orders/selection/401/39962>.

<sup>3016</sup> Minister abolishes Saudization employment category to boost job opportunities, Arab News 04 December 2019. Access date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1594201/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3017</sup> SAMA Launches the Professional Learning Partnership for Recent Graduates, Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (Riyadh) 26 December 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <http://www.sama.gov.sa/en-US/News/Pages/news-388.aspx>

<sup>3018</sup> Campaign promotes employment of Saudis in the private sector, Arab News 14 January 2020. Access date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1613181/saudi-arabia>

pandemics. The initiative comes within a package of stimulus plans to boost private sector growth and maintain the Saudi workforce as these entities encounter the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3019</sup>

Saudi Arabia is taking steps aimed at increasing employability of the youth and improving employment opportunities for younger generation.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 7 February 2020, the Government of South Africa published the Draft National Youth Policy for 2020–2030. One of the main goals of the proposed program is reduction of unemployment among younger population. Among suggested measures are promotion of digital literacy as a part of school curriculum and inclusion of practical subjects such as entrepreneurship, technical skills and handwork.<sup>3020</sup>

On 13 February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the 2020 State of the Nation address in which he tackled the problem of youth unemployment. President Ramaphosa announced the Presidential Youth Employment Intervention — a five-year program covering six priority areas. These areas are: creating job opportunities for young people in South Africa’s economy; provision of flexible courses in specific skills; promotion of youth entrepreneurship and self-employment; expansion of the Youth Employment Service and promotion of participation of private entities to provide the youth with practical working skills; establishment of the first cohort of a Presidential Youth Service program to unlock the agency of young people and provide them with opportunities to earn an income and take part in nation building; relocation of 1 per cent of the budget to deal with the high youth unemployment.

On 13 February 2020, the government announced it will allocate extra funding to tackle youth unemployment. The government endeavours to create jobs as well as promote youth entrepreneurship and self-employment by means of introduction of new vocational training programs.<sup>3021</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the state-led Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the non-governmental organization Youth Employment Service entered into a partnership to prepare young people for employment by providing them with technical skills and relevant work opportunities. The parties signed a sponsored host placement agreement to address skills promotion among youth.<sup>3022</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) has announced a start of programme to support unemployed graduates of 18–35 year olds. The

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<sup>3019</sup> Saudi Arabia launches \$178m loan deferral plan for business, Arab News 14 July 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1704421/business-economy>

<sup>3020</sup> Draft National Youth Policy 2020-2030, Government Gazette 07 February 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. [https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis\\_document/202002/42999gen48.pdf](https://www.gov.za/sites/default/files/gcis_document/202002/42999gen48.pdf)

<sup>3021</sup> Government allocates funds to reduce youth unemployment, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 13 February 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/government-allocates-funds-reduce-youth-unemployment>

<sup>3022</sup> CSIR and YES Join Hands to Create Job Opportunities for SA Youth, CSIR (Pretoria) 24 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.csir.co.za/csir-and-yes-join-hands-create-job-opportunities-sa-youth>

programme places selected volunteers at various institutions across the country, allowing them to gain workplace experience for 12 months while offering a service to the community.<sup>3023</sup>

South Africa is taking steps aimed at increasing employability of the youth and improving employment opportunities for younger generation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on promotion of youth employment.

On 7 October 2019, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) opened a vocational training center for underprivileged youths in Karachi, Pakistan, with the goal to provide skilled human resources to the industry, and to give the opportunity to “youngsters from lower and middle income brackets will be able to gain skills, which would subsequently help them in obtaining employment.”<sup>3024</sup>

On 24-25 October 2019, TIKA and the United Nations Development Programme Istanbul Regional Hub jointly organized the “Future of Skills” workshop, bringing together experts and authorities from Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Estonia, Kazakhstan, North Macedonia, Uzbekistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia to discuss the issues of skills development and facilitating youth employment; this is a regular activity as part of TIKA’s official development assistance capacity building series.<sup>3025</sup>

On 25 December 2019, TIKA opened a desk production and repair workshop in Josina Machel High School, the largest school in Maputo, Mozambique, and provided technical equipment, while lack of desks in classrooms is one of the biggest obstacles to education in Mozambique.<sup>3026</sup>

On 15 January 2020, TIKA built workshops at the Jowzjan Vocational and Technical Training Institute in Afghanistan for students and teachers engaged in technical and vocational activities.<sup>3027</sup>

Turkey has taken actions in both priority areas related to youth employment.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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<sup>3023</sup> South African Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) National Youth Service Programme 2020/2021 for Unemployed young South Africans, SAASTA 16 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020.

<https://www.saasta.ac.za/programmes/nurturing-talent/national-youth-service-programme/>

<sup>3024</sup> TIKA sets up vocational center in Pakistan, TIKA 10 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020.

[https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika\\_sets\\_up\\_vocational\\_center\\_in\\_pakistan-53729](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_sets_up_vocational_center_in_pakistan-53729)

<sup>3025</sup> Turkey shares its experience with emerging donors at TIKA — UNDP Workshop: “Future of Skills”, TIKA 19 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/turkey\\_shares\\_its\\_experience\\_with\\_emerging\\_donors\\_at\\_tika\\_undp\\_workshop\\_future\\_of\\_skills-54465](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/turkey_shares_its_experience_with_emerging_donors_at_tika_undp_workshop_future_of_skills-54465)

<sup>3026</sup> TIKA Continues to Strengthen Mozambique’s Education Infrastructure, TIKA 25 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020.

[https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika\\_continues\\_to\\_strengthen\\_mozambique%27s\\_education\\_infrastructure-55077](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_continues_to_strengthen_mozambique%27s_education_infrastructure-55077)

<sup>3027</sup> TIKA Built Workshops in a Technical Institute in Afghanistan, TIKA 15 January 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika\\_built\\_workshops\\_in\\_a\\_technical\\_institute\\_in\\_afghanistan-55346](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_built_workshops_in_a_technical_institute_in_afghanistan-55346)

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 2 September 2019, the UK Department for Work and Pensions launched the new initiative that will make it easier for parents to find work. The initiative provides for a new website (<https://findajob.dwp.gov.uk>) that will use technology to gather more than 50,000 job ads, all specifically designed with flexible working in mind.<sup>3028</sup>

On 30 September 2019, the UK Department for Work and Pensions announced two new programs to help disadvantaged young people into work and use mobile technology to help jobseekers into higher paid jobs. The first one provides for the investment of up to GBP1.2 million in Manchester and the West Midlands, dedicating extra time and resources to young people facing the biggest hurdles to getting a job, like care-leavers and young offenders. A further GBP2.8 million will be invested into cutting-edge technology to provide jobs apps to recommend the best jobs and skills training to jobseekers and people looking to find better, higher-paid jobs. It will provide local areas with information on local skills supply and demand, and jobseekers or those seeking to progress in work will be able to search for roles based on their skills and experience. The pilot service will show them exactly what new skills they need to move into higher-paid roles available near them.<sup>3029</sup>

On 28 April 2020, UK Education Secretary Gavin Williamson presented a new online learning platform to help boost people's skills while they are staying at home during the COVID-19 outbreak. The new online platform is hosted on the gov.uk website and is called The Skills Toolkit. It gives people access to free, high-quality digital and numeracy courses.<sup>3030</sup>

On 10 August 2020, the UK Government revealed its new scheme to support apprenticeships. Employers who hire a new apprentice between 1 August 2020 and 31 January 2021 will receive a payment of GBP2,000 for apprentices aged 16 to 24 and GBP1,500 for apprentices aged 25 and over.<sup>3031</sup>

The UK has taken actions in both priority areas related to youth employment.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 23 October 2019, the United States Department of Labour released a Funding Opportunity Announcement for its Job Corps Scholars Program demonstration project. Through the program, the Department intended to competitively award up to 20 grants to accredited, two-year, public community colleges; accredited, public two- and four-year historically black colleges and universities; and accredited tribally controlled colleges and universities to serve Job Corps-eligible youth and

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<sup>3028</sup> New flexi job search that's not just for mums, UK Government 1 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-flexi-job-search-that-s-not-just-for-mums>.

<sup>3029</sup> £4 million scheme to boost worker earnings and youth employment, UK Government 30 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/4-million-scheme-to-boost-worker-earnings-and-youth-employment>.

<sup>3030</sup> New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills, UK Government 28 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>.

<sup>3031</sup> Incentive payments for hiring a new apprentice, UK Government 10 August 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/incentive-payments-for-hiring-a-new-apprentice>.



young adults aged 16 to 24 years. The aim of the demonstration project is to strengthen the connection between education and workforce development.<sup>3032</sup>

On 9 November 2019, President Donald Trump, in his Proclamation on National Apprenticeship Week, committed to “fostering greater opportunity for current and future workers by supporting expanded access to apprenticeships.” He said, “By increasing training and educational programs, we will renew our Nation’s workforce and help hardworking Americans create a brighter future for themselves and their families while further strengthening our robust economy.”<sup>3033</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy announced a new competitive initiative to identify and evaluate potential solutions to improve employment outcomes for young adults, aged 14 to 24, who apply for or receive supplemental security income (SSI). Through this initiative the department invited experts’ proposals for “innovative and evidence-based actions” that could increase labour force participation and economic success of the targeted demographic.<sup>3034</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the availability of USD42.5 million in Youth Apprenticeship Readiness grants. The grants aim to support the enrollment of in-school or out-of-school youth apprentices into new or existing Registered Apprenticeship Programs. The ETA is intended to fund 15 to 25 grants ranging from USD1 million to USD5 million.<sup>3035</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Department of Labor announced the availability of USD73 million in State Apprenticeship Expansion Grants aimed at expanding apprenticeships throughout the country.<sup>3036</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy announced funding awards under its SSI Youth Solutions initiative, which aims to identify and evaluate strategies for improving employment outcomes for young adults from ages 14 to 24 who apply for or receive SSI. The office selected 12 projects, aimed at increasing labour force participation among this demographic, which would receive funding based on their proposed ideas and detailed white papers.<sup>3037</sup>

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<sup>3032</sup> U.S. department of labor announces funding opportunities to serve job corps-eligible youth, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020.

<https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20191023>.

<sup>3033</sup> Presidential Proclamation on National Apprenticeship Week, 2019, White House (Washington) November 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-national-apprenticeship-week-2019/>.

<sup>3034</sup> U.S. department of labor seeks innovative ideas to improve employment outcomes for youth receiving supplemental security income, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20200115>.

<sup>3035</sup> U.S. Department of Labor announces availability of \$42.5 million in youth apprenticeship grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200406>.

<sup>3036</sup> U.S. Department of Labor announces availability for state apprenticeship expansion grants, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200415>.

<sup>3037</sup> U.S. Department of Labor awards 12 recipients for improving employment outcomes for youth receiving supplemental security income, Department of Labor (Washington) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/odep/odep20200429>.

On 30 June 2020, the Department of Labor announced the award of USD42.3 million in Youth Apprenticeship Readiness grants to 14 organizations to increase participation by youth, aged 16 to 24.<sup>3038</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the United States Department of Labor awarded USD4.1 million in grant funding to help recruit, train and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs. The grants are designed to help women pursue occupations in non-traditional industries to organizations in California, Florida, Illinois, New York, Texas and Washington State.<sup>3039</sup>

The United States took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on youth employment.

On 5 November 2019, European Commission held a webinar on EU Funding Opportunities for Apprenticeships: Erasmus+ and European Social Fund. The Erasmus+ program provides opportunities for young people and adults to acquire skills and promotes the participation of youth in society. It also helps to enhance the quality of teaching and learning, while improving the efficiency of education and training systems. The fund assists millions of people by helping them upgrade their skills and facilitate their integration into the labour market. In doing so, this helps combat social exclusion and poverty.<sup>3040</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the EU budget for 2020 was approved. Parliament increased financing into youth employment and education policies, including EUR50 million for Erasmus+ and EUR28.3 million for the Youth Employment Initiative (with an additional EUR50 million to be added in 2020 if necessary).<sup>3041</sup>

On 20 February 2020, the European Commission invited social partners from cross-industry level and sectors to a hearing on the Youth Guarantee. The discussion covered topics such as:

- how to better support employability of young people in rural areas
- how to provide young people with digital and green skills

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<sup>3038</sup> U.S. department of labor announces over \$42 million in youth apprenticeship readiness grant awards to increase youth participation in registered apprenticeships, US Department of Labor(Washington) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200630-1>.

<sup>3039</sup> U.S. department of labor awards \$4.1 million to increase women participation in apprenticeship, expand job opportunities, US Department of Labor(Washington) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20200928>.

<sup>3040</sup> Webinar: EU Funding Opportunities for Apprenticeships: Erasmus+ and European Social Fund (ESF), European Commission (Brussels) 5 November 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?eventsId=1522&catId=88&furtherEvents=yes&langId=en&>

<sup>3041</sup> EU budget 2020 approved: investing more in climate, jobs and the young, European Parliament (Brussels) 27 November 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20191121PR67118/eu-budget-2020-approved-investing-more-in-climate-jobs-and-the-young>

- how social partners will contribute to the effective implementation of a reinforced Youth Guarantee.<sup>3042</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the European Commission announced that is providing funding to promote vocational excellence across Europe, with calls for pilot projects published in 2019 and 2020. In 2020 the Commission published a specific call to establish Platforms of Centres of Vocational Excellence with a total budget of EUR20 million to support 5 platforms running for four years. These platforms closely resemble the future model that the European Commission intends to support in the Erasmus program in its 2021-2027 programming period.<sup>3043</sup>

The European Union took steps to both improve employment opportunities and increase employability of the youth.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>3042</sup> Dedicated social partner hearing on reinforcing the youth guarantee, European Commission (Brussels) 20 February 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1079&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9577>

<sup>3043</sup> Information on Erasmus+ calls for projects promoting vocational excellence, European Commission (Brussels) 11 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020.

<https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=9672&furtherNews=yes>

## 11. Gender: Education and Training

“[We commit to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training, including...] improved access to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada		0	
China	-1		
France		0	
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia	-1		
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.25 (63%)	

### Background

Promoting women’s education and vocational training including access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is fundamental to the global progress on gender equality. Every additional year of school attendance after the primary level helps women’s prospects for employment, health and wellbeing.<sup>3044</sup> There has been global progress in achieving women’s education enrollment. More girls than ever before are attending school. According to the 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report, two of every three countries have achieved gender parity in primary education and one of every two countries has accomplished gender parity in lower secondary education enrollment.<sup>3045</sup>

Despite progress, there are an estimated 15 million girls who do not attend primary school, compared to 10 million boys. Countries with low primary and secondary education rates for girls in particular have shown that there is a correlation of a lack of education and poverty. Some contributing factors that account for this discrepancy is the lack of basic infrastructure such as

<sup>3044</sup> SDG 4: Quality Education, UN Women (New York). Access Date: 4 March 2020.

<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-4-quality-education>

<sup>3045</sup> Global Education Monitoring Report 2019: Building Bridges for Gender Equality, Global Education Monitoring Report (Paris) 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000368753>

electricity, the internet, computers and training of primary school teachers in developing countries.<sup>3046</sup>

Women's experience with vocational and technical training are also important for gender parity in traditionally male-dominated industries. According to the World Bank, the strongest predictor of a woman's decision to enter a male-dominated trade is her existing relationships in the relevant industry.<sup>3047</sup> Technical training acts as "early points of contact and exposure" for women to enter these industries.<sup>3048</sup> However, vocational and technical training and certain fields such as STEM have continued to be male-dominated. According to UNESCO Institute of Statistics, women make up less than 30% of the world's researchers in science, technology, and innovation.<sup>3049</sup>

The 2009 London Summit was notable for it marked the first time G20 leaders identified the importance of investing in education and training to support employment. In the G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform, the leaders decided to build a fair and family-friendly labour market for both men and women.<sup>3050</sup> They also committed to take practical measures to overcome the barriers hindering women's full economic and social participation, and to expand economic opportunities for women in G20 economies.<sup>3051</sup> G20 members demonstrated their commitment to advance gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages and salaries, treatment in the workplace and responsibilities in care-giving.<sup>3052</sup>

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, G20 leaders committed to promote women's full economic and social participation by expanding economic opportunities for women in G20 economies.<sup>3053</sup> In particular, G20 leaders committed to advancing gender equality in all areas, including skills training, wages, treatment in the workplace and responsibilities in care giving.<sup>3054</sup> In regards to fostering financial inclusion, G20 leaders recognized the need for women and youth to gain access to financial services and financial education. They worked with the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the World Bank to identify barriers women and youth may face.<sup>3055</sup> In the Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, they

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<sup>3046</sup> Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations Economic and Social Council (New York) 8 May 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <https://undocs.org/E/2019/68>

<sup>3047</sup> Female enrollment in male-dominated vocational training courses: preferences and prospects, World Bank (Washington) 30 June 2017. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/698591498812317468/Female-enrollment-in-male-dominated-vocational-training-courses-preferences-and-prospects>

<sup>3048</sup> Female enrollment in male-dominated vocational training courses : preferences and prospects, World Bank (Washington) 30 June 2017. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/698591498812317468/Female-enrollment-in-male-dominated-vocational-training-courses-preferences-and-prospects>

<sup>3049</sup> Women in Science, UNSECO Institute of Statistics (Montreal) 19 June 2019. Access Date: 4 March 2020. <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/fs55-women-in-science-2019-en.pdf>

<sup>3050</sup> G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

<sup>3051</sup> G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

<sup>3052</sup> G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

<sup>3053</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>3054</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>3055</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration Los Cabos, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 22 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

committed to encouraging the participation of younger workers through apprenticeships, better education and skills development.<sup>3056</sup>

At the 2016 Hamburg Summit, G20 leaders approved the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda includes harnessing digital technologies to advance women's empowerment (Sustainable Development Goal [SDG] 5) and eliminating gender disparities in education (SDG 4). The G20 adopted the #eSkills4Girls initiative under the G20 Action Plan. This initiative tackles the gender digital divide in developing countries, which has been key to hindering girls' and women's access to information and communication technology, by boosting relevant education and employment opportunities.<sup>3057</sup>

The 2018 Buenos Aires Summit made promoting quality education one of its top priorities. Under Argentina's G20 presidency, the G20 held the first G20 education ministers' meeting, after the summit, where members repeated their acknowledgement that access to inclusive and quality education in a safe learning environment is fundamental to empowering girls and women.<sup>3058</sup> The education ministers recommended policies including expanding opportunities for girls to receive a minimum of 12 years of education, adopting measures to fight stereotypes against women and encouraging women to pursue tertiary studies, particularly in STEM.<sup>3059</sup>

In Tsubaka, Japan, on 9 June 2019, the G20 trade ministers and G20 digital economy ministers reconfirmed the importance of accessibility of technology for women and bridging the digital divide by enhancing digital literacy and digital access.<sup>3060</sup> With their endorsement of the #eSkills4girls initiative, the G20 ministers reaffirmed that the participation of women and girls in the digital economy supports stronger economic growth, innovation and societal well-being.<sup>3061</sup> The ministers encouraged G20 members to develop frameworks to measure and track sex-disaggregated data and to initiate efforts to increase women's access to digital networks and in STEM subjects.<sup>3062</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders expressed the importance of women's empowerment in the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive economic growth.<sup>3063</sup> This was the first time that the G20 leaders made an explicit reference to improving access to STEM and raising awareness toward eliminating gender stereotypes in their commitment to supporting education and training for girls and women.<sup>3064</sup> G20 members also restated their support for women's access to digital technology,

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<sup>3056</sup> Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos-actionplan.html>

<sup>3057</sup> Annex to G20 Leaders Declaration G20 Initiative #eSkills4Girls": Transforming the Future of Women and Girls in the Digital Economy, Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 8 July 2017. Access Date: 8 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-initiative-eskills4girls.html>

<sup>3058</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Declaration, G20 (Mendoza) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-09-05-education.html>

<sup>3059</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Declaration, G20 (Mendoza) 5 September 2018. Access Date: 6 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-09-05-education.html>

<sup>3060</sup> G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy, G20 (Tsubaka) 9 June 2019. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-trade.html>

<sup>3061</sup> G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy, G20 (Tsubaka) 9 June 2019. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-trade.html>

<sup>3062</sup> G20 Ministerial Statement on Trade and Digital Economy, G20 (Tsubaka) 9 June 2019. Access Date: 9 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-trade.html>

<sup>3063</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Japan 2019 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3064</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Japan 2019 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

managerial and decision making positions, and entrepreneurship.<sup>3065</sup> Additionally, G20 members encouraged the private sector to also take their own actions in advancing women in the private sector and increasing the number of women in management positions.<sup>3066</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

In this commitment, there are two targets, one to continue to support girls' and women's education and training and to improve access to STEM for girls and women. Girls and women, in this context, are equally weighted.<sup>3067</sup> "Girls" is understood to mean female individuals below the age of 18 years.<sup>3068</sup> "Women" is understood to mean female individuals aged 18 years or more. A G20 member can achieve compliance for the first target by supporting either girls' education and training or women's education and training. The commitment also specifies improving access to STEM for girls and women. A G20 member can achieve compliance for the second target by improving access to STEM for either girls or women. A G20 member must include initiatives for improving access to STEM for girls and women in order to achieve full compliance.

"To continue support" is understood to mean carrying on the pursuit to provide aid, assistance or backing up an existing initiative."<sup>3069</sup> This includes expanding, increasing, enhancing the efficiency of or prolonging existing actions. Examples include continuing support include financial, human resources and technical support.

"Education" is understood to mean organized and sustained communication designed to bring about learning.<sup>3070</sup> Examples of initiatives that support girls' education are to provide or support organisations that provide stipends or scholarships, ensuring gender-sensitive curriculums, promote discussions about gender stereotypes or cultural/societal practices, and hiring/training qualified female teachers.<sup>3071</sup>

"Training" is understood to mean acquiring a skill, knowledge or experience. Training, in this context, differs from education in that training refers to technical cooperation or assistance. Training for women refers to acquiring specific knowledge and experience of long-term vocations rather than non-standard forms of employment such as care-giving responsibilities, self-employment, part-time and on-call work.<sup>3072</sup> Actions that demonstrate training women boost the level of knowledge, skills, technical know-how or productive aptitudes of women or provide services such as consultancy,

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<sup>3065</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Japan 2019 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3066</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration, G20 Japan 2019 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3067</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019.

<sup>3068</sup> The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York) 30 November 1989. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<sup>3069</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019.

<sup>3070</sup> Education, OECD (Paris) 25 September 2001. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://stats.oecd.org/glossary/detail.asp?ID=741>

<sup>3071</sup> Girls' Education, World Bank (Washington, D.C.) 25 September 2017. Access Date: 9 April 2020.

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/girlseducation>

<sup>3072</sup> Women at Work in G20 countries: Progress and policy action, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2019. Access Date: 9 November 2019. [https://www.g20.org/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_09.pdf](https://www.g20.org/pdf/documents/en/annex_09.pdf)

technical support of know-how.<sup>3073</sup> Examples of training can be vocational workshops, on-the-job training programs and training in management.

“Improve” is understood as to make or become better.<sup>3074</sup> In this commitment’s context, it is interpreted to mean that old initiatives to provide access will be updated.<sup>3075</sup> “Access” is understood to mean the right to obtain or make use of something. In the context of education and training, access refers to availability.<sup>3076</sup> It is defined in terms of reachability (physical access), affordability (economic access) and acceptability (socio-cultural access) of services that meet a minimum standard of quality. The action of making services available, affordable and acceptable is a prerequisite for universal access.<sup>3077</sup>

Full compliance for this commitment is achieved by supporting women’s education and training and increasing access to STEM. To achieve full compliance for the second target of improving access to STEM for girls and women, the G20 member must demonstrate at least two out of the three standards of access: reachability, affordability and acceptability. Examples of reachability can include on-the-job training programs, workshops preparing women for STEM, and training in management. Examples of affordability can include apprenticeship incentive grants, scholarships to pursue STEM fields in tertiary education, and general financial investment for women in STEM. Examples of acceptability include social campaigns that discuss fighting gender stereotypes relating to STEM, panel discussions on gender barriers to STEM, and lectures from women in the STEM field. For a score of partial compliance, the G20 member has taken concrete actions to support education and training for girls and women but has not provided improved access to STEM. For a score of non-compliance, the G20 member has completed none of the aforementioned.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not taken any steps to support education and training for girls and women AND has not improved access to STEM.
0	G20 member has taken steps to support education and training for girls and women OR increase access to STEM.
+1	G20 member has taken steps to support education and training for girls and women AND increase access to STEM.

*Compliance Director: Jae Yoon Mary Nob  
Lead Analyst: Jennifer Wang*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to support education and vocational training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) for girls and women.

<sup>3073</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019.

<sup>3074</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

<sup>3075</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

<sup>3076</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016.

<sup>3077</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016.



On 17 September 2019, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MESCYT) and the University of Buenos Aires hosted an event called “Conectando Mujeres” at Sarmiento Palace to allow female leaders in the technology sector to share their experiences with university students.<sup>3078</sup> Representatives of various companies including IBM and Facebook looked at various proposals for the development of women in technology and the creation of more inclusive workspaces.<sup>3079</sup>

From 23 to 24 October 2019, the MESCYT hosted a conference with the Instituto Nacional de Educación Tecnológica and Ministry of Education, called Programando futuro.<sup>3080</sup> With 140 female students from 35 technical schools in attendance, the conference aimed to encourage a gendered perspective in professional technical education.<sup>3081</sup>

On 3 January 2020, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta and Governor of Santa Fe Omar Perotti signed an act of commitment to ensure the right to education in the Santa Fe province.<sup>3082</sup> This act aims to maintain compulsory education for boys and girls from age four until the end of secondary education while concurrently reducing gender inequality.<sup>3083</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security hosted a virtual workshop on issues of gender in local management in order to illuminate the obstacles that women face in employment and training.<sup>3084</sup> This workshop aims to incorporate gendered perspectives into discussions on local management.<sup>3085</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation created the National Program for Gender Equality, in collaboration with the National Scientific and Technical Research Council and the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity.<sup>3086</sup> This program aims to assist in the design of public policies in science, technology and innovation with a gendered perspective, to monitor and

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<sup>3078</sup> Conectando Mujeres: Una Jornada Para Potenciar el Desarrollo de las Mujeres en Tecnologías, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/conectando-mujeres-una-jornada-para-potenciar-el-desarrollo-de-las-mujeres-en-tecnologias>

<sup>3079</sup> Conectando Mujeres: Una Jornada Para Potenciar el Desarrollo de las Mujeres en Tecnologías, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/conectando-mujeres-una-jornada-para-potenciar-el-desarrollo-de-las-mujeres-en-tecnologias>

<sup>3080</sup> Programando Future: Más Mujeres en la Educación Técnica, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/programando-futuro-mas-mujeres-en-la-educacion-tecnica>

<sup>3081</sup> Programando future: más mujeres en la Educación Técnica, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/programando-futuro-mas-mujeres-en-la-educacion-tecnica>

<sup>3082</sup> Educación y Santa Fe firmaron el compromiso “Todos los chicos y chicas en la escuela”, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-santa-fe-firmaron-el-compromiso-todos-los-chicos-y-chicas-en-la-escuela>

<sup>3083</sup> Educación y Santa Fe Firmaron el Compromiso “Todos los Chicos y Chicas en la Escuela”, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-santa-fe-firmaron-el-compromiso-todos-los-chicos-y-chicas-en-la-escuela>

<sup>3084</sup> Workshop on the Perspective of Gender, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/taller-sobre-perspectiva-de-genero>

<sup>3085</sup> Workshop on the Perspective of Gender, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/taller-sobre-perspectiva-de-genero>

<sup>3086</sup> The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation created the National Program for Gender Equality, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ciencia-tecnologia-e-innovacion-creo-el-programa-nacional-para-la-igualdad>

evaluate scientific and technological practices, and to prepare recommendations or suggestions that promote gender equality.<sup>3087</sup> Furthermore, this program aims to help women and members of LGBTQ+ community access leadership positions in the scientific and technological sectors.<sup>3088</sup> The need for the National Program results from a finding that while women compose the majority of workers in STEM in Argentina, there is a visible underrepresentation of women in STEM leadership positions.<sup>3089</sup>

On 11 August 2020, President of Argentina, Alberto Fernández, and Minister Gómez Alcorta, along with Minister of Public Works, Gabriel Katopódís, and the Head of Argentine Water and Sanitation (AySA), Malena Galmarini, announced new developments of public works with gendered perspectives across Argentina.<sup>3090</sup> Following the Argentina Hacer Plan, there will be renovations for the Comprehensive Centers for Women in Río Grande (Tierra del Fuego), Trelew (Chubut) and San Martín de los Andes (Neuquén), and the construction of two Territorial Centers for Gender and Diversity Policies in Buenos Aires and Santa Rosa.<sup>3091</sup> These developments aim to promote financing for projects concerning the rights of women and children, while guaranteeing the participation of women in local project formulations.<sup>3092</sup> These developments support female involvement in the construction sector.<sup>3093</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the Bank of the Argentine Nation (BNA) established a Management Branch for Gender, Diversity and Human Rights, and launched a credit line for small- and medium-sized companies led by women.<sup>3094</sup> The creation of a new management branch aims to promote gender

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<sup>3087</sup> The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation created the National Program for Gender Equality, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ciencia-tecnologia-e-innovacion-creo-el-programa-nacional-para-la-igualdad>

<sup>3088</sup> The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation created the National Program for Gender Equality, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ciencia-tecnologia-e-innovacion-creo-el-programa-nacional-para-la-igualdad>

<sup>3089</sup> The Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation created the National Program for Gender Equality, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 15 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ciencia-tecnologia-e-innovacion-creo-el-programa-nacional-para-la-igualdad>

<sup>3090</sup> We Participated in the Announcement of New Public Works Plans with a Gendered Perspective for the Entire Country, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-anuncio-de-nuevos-planes-de-obras-publicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para>

<sup>3091</sup> We Participated in the Announcement of New Public Works Plans with a Gendered Perspective for the Entire Country, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-anuncio-de-nuevos-planes-de-obras-publicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para>

<sup>3092</sup> We Participated in the Announcement of New Public Works Plans with a Gendered Perspective for the Entire Country, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-anuncio-de-nuevos-planes-de-obras-publicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para>

<sup>3093</sup> We Participated in the Announcement of New Public Works Plans with a Gendered Perspective for the Entire Country, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-anuncio-de-nuevos-planes-de-obras-publicas-con-perspectiva-de-genero-para>

<sup>3094</sup> We Participated in the Launch of Loans from Banco Nación at Subsidized Rates for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Led by Women, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-lanzamiento-de-creditos-del-banco-nacion-tasas-subsidiadas-para-mipymes>

parity and diversity.<sup>3095</sup> The credit line aims to support female-led companies during the current health emergency by bringing a gendered perspective into the BNA.<sup>3096</sup>

Argentina has recognized the right to education for children in an aim to reduce gender inequality, additionally hosting events which provide information to girls and women about the STEM field. However, these actions have not improved girls' and women's access to the STEM field.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Brandon Yih*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to continue its support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 10 October 2019, Minister for Education Dan Tehan and Member of Parliament Melissa McIntosh announced the Australian Research Council (ARC) would take steps to address gender disparities in Australian research.<sup>3097</sup> These steps include publicly reporting the proportion of women included in applications for ARC funding and announcing two female researchers as ambassadors for women in research.<sup>3098</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the Australian government launched the Academy for Enterprising Girls.<sup>3099</sup> The program aims to equip girls ages 10 to 18 with enterprise and design thinking skills and advocates for girls' education in STEM fields.<sup>3100</sup>

On 8 March 2020, the Australian government released a 2020 action plan that states they will continue their support for female STEM education through the Women in STEM and Entrepreneurship (WISE) grants and the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) program.<sup>3101</sup>

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<sup>3095</sup> We Participated in the Launch of Loans from Banco Nación at Subsidized Rates for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Led by Women, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-lanzamiento-de-creditos-del-banco-nacion-tasas-subsidiadas-para-mipymes>

<sup>3096</sup> We Participated in the Launch of Loans from Banco Nación at Subsidized Rates for Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises Led by Women, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/participamos-del-lanzamiento-de-creditos-del-banco-nacion-tasas-subsidiadas-para-mipymes>

<sup>3097</sup> Increasing Female Participation in Research, Australian Government (Canberra) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.arc.gov.au/news-publications/media/media-releases/increasing-female-participation-research>

<sup>3098</sup> Increasing Female Participation in Research, Australian Government (Canberra) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February, 2020. <https://www.arc.gov.au/news-publications/media/media-releases/increasing-female-participation-research>

<sup>3099</sup> The Girls Taking Over Parliament and Getting Down to Business, Australian Financial Review (Sydney). 4 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.afr.com/politics/federal/the-girls-taking-over-parliament-and-getting-down-to-business-20191204-p53gnk>

<sup>3100</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' Website Launch, Office of Women: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>

<sup>3101</sup> Advancing Women in STEM. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Australian Commonwealth). 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/advancing-women-in-stem-strategy/2020-action-plan>

These programs aim to promote gender equality in STEM fields, encourage women to get involved and raise the profile of successful women in this field.<sup>3102</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the Australian government announced additional funding to support women in the response and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3103</sup> The funding will provide 90 women with one-on-one mentoring every month as well as networking opportunities and resources for flexible work arrangements.<sup>3104</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources partnered with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation to create an online directory to assist women entrepreneurs.<sup>3105</sup> The directory consists of information and tools that provide mentoring programs, networking opportunities, sources of funding or finance, business training and professional development.<sup>3106</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the UN Women opened a ring-road market in Melemaat, Vanuatu with funding from the Government of Australia and the Government of Canada.<sup>3107</sup> This initiative is part of the UN Women's Market for Change project which aims to promote women's economic empowerment by connecting local governments with marketplaces in rural and urban areas in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.<sup>3108</sup> The project includes training women vendors in financial literacy such as basic budgeting, goal-setting, and record-keeping.<sup>3109</sup>

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to support girls' and women's education and training in STEM by creating new reforms and programs such as WISE and SAGE that give girls and women better access to opportunities in the field of STEM.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Samantha Parker*

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<sup>3102</sup> Advancing Women in STEM. Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Australian Commonwealth). 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/advancing-women-in-stem-strategy/2020-action-plan>

<sup>3103</sup> Support for Australian women during COVID-19 and beyond, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/support-australian-women-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

<sup>3104</sup> Support for Australian women during COVID-19 and beyond, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/support-australian-women-during-covid-19-and-beyond>

<sup>3105</sup> New Resources directory to support female founders, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/new-resources-directory-to-support-female-founders>

<sup>3106</sup> New Resources directory to support female founders, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (Canberra) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/news-media/new-resources-directory-to-support-female-founders>

<sup>3107</sup> Melemaat to benefit from new ring-road market, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <http://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

<sup>3108</sup> Melemaat to benefit from new ring-road market, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

<sup>3109</sup> Markets for Change, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 31 December 2015. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

## **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 3 February 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro, stressed the importance of investing in quality public education and reducing gender inequalities as two of the objectives for 2020 in a presidential message to the National Congress.<sup>3110</sup> The goal is to design policies and invest in sectors as well as projects that will lead to better public education for the population and less inequality in the country.<sup>3111</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the House of Representatives promoted the realization of diverse activities in celebration of International Women's Day, through the Secretária da Mulher.<sup>3112</sup> The initiative is called Março Mulher and will provide seminars, cultural activities and workshops about the challenges of women in politics, fighting stereotypes against women, and women's participation in the Brazilian parliament.<sup>3113</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the Ministry of Women, Family and Human Rights (MMFDH) in cooperation with the Brazilian bank, Caixa, announced the project "Webinário de Educação Financeira — O Caminho das Contas" (Financial Education Webinar — The Way of Accounts).<sup>3114</sup> The webinar will be taught in six units of "Casa da Mulher" (Brazilian Women's House), a humanized care centre specialized in assisting women in situations of domestic violence: Campo Grande, São Luís, Fortaleza, Boa Vista, Curitiba and São Paulo.<sup>3115</sup> The project aims to make financial education accessible for women who are currently in a situation of violence and social and economic vulnerability.<sup>3116</sup> Its objective is to aid financially dependent women by encouraging entrepreneurship and teaching how to manage resources effectively.<sup>3117</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the Financier of Innovation and Research and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Innovations and Communications awarded BRL100,000 to five startups led by females

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<sup>3110</sup> Em mensagem ao Congresso, Bolsonaro Destaca Avanços do Governo e Metas Para 2020 03/02/2020. Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 3 February 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/acompanhe-o-planalto/noticias/2020/02/em-mensagem-ao-congresso-presidente-bolsonaro-destaca-avancos-do-governo>

<sup>3111</sup> Em mensagem ao Congresso, Bolsonaro Destaca Avanços do Governo e Metas Para 2020 03/02/2020. Governo do Brasil (Brasília) 3 February 2020. Access date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.br/planalto/pt-br/acompanhe-o-planalto/noticias/2020/02/em-mensagem-ao-congresso-presidente-bolsonaro-destaca-avancos-do-governo>

<sup>3112</sup> Câmara Realiza Debates e Atividades Culturais no Mês da Mulher 02/03/2020. Câmara dos Deputados (Brasília) 3 March 2020. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/641157-camara-realiza-debates-e-atividades-culturais-no-mes-da-mulher/>

<sup>3113</sup> Câmara Realiza Debates e Atividades Culturais no Mês da Mulher 02/03/2020. Câmara dos Deputados (Brasília) 3 March 2020. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.camara.leg.br/noticias/641157-camara-realiza-debates-e-atividades-culturais-no-mes-da-mulher/>

<sup>3114</sup> Units Will Offer Financial Education Courses To Women, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2020/07/unidades-da-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-vao-oferecer-cursos-de-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3115</sup> Units Will Offer Financial Education Courses To Women, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2020/07/unidades-da-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-vao-oferecer-cursos-de-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3116</sup> Units Will Offer Financial Education Courses To Women, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2020/07/unidades-da-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-vao-oferecer-cursos-de-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3117</sup> Units Will Offer Financial Education Courses To Women, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gov.br/pt-br/noticias/assistencia-social/2020/07/unidades-da-casa-da-mulher-brasileira-vao-oferecer-cursos-de-educacao-financeira>

as part of the program Mulheres Inovadoras (Female Innovators).<sup>3118</sup> The program aims to reduce the gap between female and male entrepreneurship, bringing more opportunities for women to enter STEM.<sup>3119</sup> By making more women leaders in the nation's science and innovation scenery, the initiative strives to reduce gender inequalities and obstacles that impede women from becoming entrepreneurs.<sup>3120</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the MMFDH in cooperation with the Brazilian bank, Caixa, opened the webinar "O Caminho das Contas" (Way of Accounts) to women who live in traditional communities.<sup>3121</sup> The course's details and language were adapted to fit the reality of the communities involved, and the training will consist of approximately one hour.<sup>3122</sup> The goal of the program is to teach financial education and encourage female independence.<sup>3123</sup>

On 14 September 2020, Espírito Santo's Federal Institute and the MMFDH offered 50,000 vacancies for the practical course "Maratona + Mulheres na Política."<sup>3124</sup> The course's format consists of video tutorials, podcasts and other complementary materials.<sup>3125</sup> The goal of the training is to prepare female candidates for the upcoming 2020 elections.<sup>3126</sup>

Although Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including access to STEM by establishing courses, workshops and events that promote female independence and entrepreneurship. Brazil has not implemented any tangible policies on increasing their access to STEM.

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<sup>3118</sup> MCTI/FINEP: Finalists Of The Innovative Women Program Receive Awards, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2020/08/mcti-finep-finalistas-do-programa-mulheres-inovadoras-recebem-premiacao>

<sup>3119</sup> MCTI/FINEP: Finalists Of The Innovative Women Program Receive Awards, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2020/08/mcti-finep-finalistas-do-programa-mulheres-inovadoras-recebem-premiacao>

<sup>3120</sup> MCTI/FINEP: Finalists Of The Innovative Women Program Receive Awards, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mcti/pt-br/acompanhe-o-mcti/noticias/2020/08/mcti-finep-finalistas-do-programa-mulheres-inovadoras-recebem-premiacao>

<sup>3121</sup> Women From Traditional Communities Will Receive Free Training In Financial Education, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mulheres-de-comunidades-tradicionais-receberao-capacitacao-gratuita-em-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3122</sup> Women From Traditional Communities Will Receive Free Training In Financial Education, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mulheres-de-comunidades-tradicionais-receberao-capacitacao-gratuita-em-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3123</sup> Women From Traditional Communities Will Receive Free Training In Financial Education, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mulheres-de-comunidades-tradicionais-receberao-capacitacao-gratuita-em-educacao-financeira>

<sup>3124</sup> More Women In Politics Opens 50,000 Vacancies For Training Candidates For Elections 2020, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mais-mulheres-na-politica-abre-50-mil-vagas-para-capacitacao-de-candidatas-as-eleicoes-2020>

<sup>3125</sup> More Women In Politics Opens 50,000 Vacancies For Training Candidates For Elections 2020, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mais-mulheres-na-politica-abre-50-mil-vagas-para-capacitacao-de-candidatas-as-eleicoes-2020>

<sup>3126</sup> More Women In Politics Opens 50,000 Vacancies For Training Candidates For Elections 2020, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020-2/setembro/mais-mulheres-na-politica-abre-50-mil-vagas-para-capacitacao-de-candidatas-as-eleicoes-2020>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

### **Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 13 February 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau attended the official opening of the International Development Research Centre's new regional office in Dakar, Senegal, where he emphasized Canada's support for innovative research.<sup>3127</sup> He met with students and young research professionals whose projects focus on several topics including advancement of technology.<sup>3128</sup> The goal is to advance gender equality and provide better educational opportunities for adolescent girls in Senegal.<sup>3129</sup>

On 10 February 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced support for the African Union Commission's efforts to advance gender equality.<sup>3130</sup> Through investments, Canada will help increase economic opportunities and address barriers for 150,000 women in East Africa.<sup>3131</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the Government of Canada funded the "Apprenticeship Incentive Grant for Women," giving women in eligible Red Seal Program Trades a CAD3,000 grant per level to pay for expenses incurred during their apprenticeship training.<sup>3132</sup> This funding aims to support women's access to training in female underrepresented trades.<sup>3133</sup>

On 16 May 2020, Minister of Small Businesses, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced that the Government of Canada would be providing CAD15 million in funding to the Women's Entrepreneurship Strategy to further assist female entrepreneurship during the COVID-19

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<sup>3127</sup> Prime Minister Concludes Productive Visit to Senegal, Prime Minister of Canada (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/13/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-senegal>

<sup>3128</sup> Prime Minister Concludes Productive Visit to Senegal, Prime Minister of Canada (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/13/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-senegal>

<sup>3129</sup> Prime Minister Concludes Productive Visit to Senegal, Prime Minister of Canada (Dakar) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/13/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-senegal>

<sup>3130</sup> Prime Minister Concludes Productive Visit to Ethiopia to Promote Partnerships, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/10/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-ethiopia-promote>

<sup>3131</sup> Prime Minister Concludes Productive Visit to Ethiopia to Promote Partnerships, Prime Minister of Canada (Addis Ababa) 10 February 2020. Access date: 20 March 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/02/10/prime-minister-concludes-productive-visit-ethiopia-promote>

<sup>3132</sup> Apply For The Apprenticeship Incentive Grant For Women: What This Grant Offers, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/funding/apprenticeship-incentive-women-overview.html>

<sup>3133</sup> Government Of Canada Launches New Apprenticeship Incentive Grant For Women To Help Them Get Certified In Red Seal Trades – Apply Today, Government Of Canada (Gatineau) 11 December 2018. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2018/12/government-of-canada-launches-new-apprenticeship-incentive-grant-for-women-to-help-them-get-certified-in-red-seal-trades--apply-today.html>

pandemic.<sup>3134</sup> This funding is intended to help women navigate the “digital marketplace” created by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing resources such as “business workshops, mentorship and skills training.”<sup>3135</sup>

On 3 July 2020, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced that the Government of Canada will be “investing CAD40 million over three years in the Union Training and Innovation Program” to improve training and support innovations for apprenticeships.<sup>3136</sup> This investment aims to support underrepresented groups such as women in gaining access to training in the trades.<sup>3137</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Minister of Small Businesses, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced that CAD281,600, a portion of the total CAD15 million in additional funding to the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy’s Ecosystem Fund announced in May 2020, will be invested in the Entrepreneurial Leadership and Learning Alliance (ELLA).<sup>3138</sup> The ELLA program provides women entrepreneurs with training and mentorship needed to overcome difficulties brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3139</sup>

On 9 September 2020, Minister of Small Businesses, Export Promotion and International Trade Mary Ng announced the implementation of the first virtual trade mission for women entrepreneurs with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, an initiative supported by the federally-funded Women Entrepreneurship Strategy’s Ecosystem Fund.<sup>3140</sup> This mission to Korea will give Canadian women entrepreneurs in the STEM industry the opportunity to expand their skills and explore the international market through “virtual sessions, panel discussions, and business training.”<sup>3141</sup>

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<sup>3134</sup> Minister Ng Announces More Support For Women Entrepreneurs Amid COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-amid-covid-19.html>

<sup>3135</sup> Minister Ng Announces More Support For Women Entrepreneurs Amid COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 16 May 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/05/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-amid-covid-19.html>

<sup>3136</sup> Government Of Canada Invests In Supports For Apprentices To Complete Their Training And Find Work In The Skilled Trades, Government Of Canada (Gatineau) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-supports-for-apprentices-to-complete-their-training-and-find-work-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

<sup>3137</sup> Government Of Canada Invests In Supports For Apprentices To Complete Their Training And Find Work In The Skilled Trades, Government Of Canada (Gatineau) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-supports-for-apprentices-to-complete-their-training-and-find-work-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

<sup>3138</sup> Minister Ng Announces More support For Women Entrepreneurs In Southern Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/08/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>3139</sup> Minister Ng Announces More Support For Women Entrepreneurs In Southern Ontario, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2020/08/minister-ng-announces-more-support-for-women-entrepreneurs-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>3140</sup> Minister Ng Announces Asia Pacific Foundation Of Canada’s First Virtual Trade Mission To South Korea For Women Entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/minister-ng-announces-asia-pacific-foundation-of-canadas-first-virtual-trade-mission-to-south-korea-for-women-entrepreneurs.html>

<sup>3141</sup> Minister Ng Announces Asia Pacific Foundation Of Canada’s First Virtual Trade Mission To South Korea For Women Entrepreneurs, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/09/minister-ng-announces-asia-pacific-foundation-of-canadas-first-virtual-trade-mission-to-south-korea-for-women-entrepreneurs.html>



On 15 September 2020, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Infrastructure and Communities and Member of Parliament for Halifax Andy Fillmore, on behalf of Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced that the Canadian government will invest CAD1 million in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Halifax's Launch Atlantic project as part of the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy.<sup>3142</sup> YWCA Halifax's Launch Atlantic project will assist young women and youth in gaining employment and developing their careers by providing the opportunity to gain employment-specific skills training.<sup>3143</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the UN Women opened a ring-road market in Melemaat, Vanuatu with funding from the Government of Australia and the Government of Canada.<sup>3144</sup> This initiative is part of the UN Women's Market for Change project which aims to promote women's economic empowerment by connecting local governments with marketplaces in rural and urban areas in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.<sup>3145</sup> The project includes training women vendors in financial literacy such as basic budgeting, goal-setting, and record-keeping.<sup>3146</sup>

Through increasing investing in gender equality abroad, by targeting women's access to education, Canada has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education. However, it has not taken action to improve girls' and women's access to STEM.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Christina Muia and Meixi Zhang*

### **China: -1**

China has not complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 17 August 2019, the Government of China released a white paper on vocational education and training in Xinjiang province.<sup>3147</sup> The education and training centers will employ qualified teachers, using textbooks compiled especially for the trainees, teaching in the same way as in regular schools in

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<sup>3142</sup>Government Of Canada COVID-19 Measures Delivering Support To Young People This Fall, Government of Canada (Halifax) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-covid-19-measures-delivering-support-for-young-people-this-fall.html>

<sup>3143</sup> Backgrounder: COVID-19 Measures For Youth And Students, Government of Canada (Halifax) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/backgrounder-youth-employment-and-skills-strategy-yess.html>

<sup>3144</sup> Melemaat to benefit from new ring-road market, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

<sup>3145</sup> Melemaat to benefit from new ring-road market, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

<sup>3146</sup> Markets for Change, UN Women Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) 31 December 2015. Access Date: 13 November 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/10/melemaat-to-benefit-from-new-ring-road-market>

<sup>3147</sup> Vocational Education and Training in Xinjiang, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content\\_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html)

order to rapidly improve their ability in the use of standard spoken and written Chinese.<sup>3148</sup> Improving the trainees' command of standard spoken and written Chinese helps them to learn about science and technology, acquire vocational skills, seek work in other locations, communicate with other ethnic groups, and adapt better to life in modern society, subject to the condition that their right to use their own ethnic spoken and written languages is respected.<sup>3149</sup>

On 8 May 2020, UNESCO opened registrations for the Girls' and Women's Education Prize with funding from the Government of China.<sup>3150</sup> The prize will award USD50,000 to two laureates to help further their work in the area of girls' and women's education.<sup>3151</sup> The Prize is intended to contribute to SDG 4 on education and SDG 5 on gender equality.<sup>3152</sup>

China has not taken sufficient action or made any collaborative commitments to support girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to STEM.

Thus, China receives a score of -1.<sup>3153</sup>

*Analyst: Ruohan Mu*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 20 November 2019, Minister of National Education and Youth Jean-Michel Blanquer launched the program "1 Scientist — 1 class: Chiche!"<sup>3154</sup> This program is designed to bring students and digital researchers together to foster an interest in science and math, especially among young women.<sup>3155</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the French government introduced a five-year strategy for 2019 — 2024: La Convention Interministérielle pour l'égalité Entre les Filles et les Garçons, les Femmes et les Hommes dans le système Éducatif (Interministerial Convention for the Equality of Boys and Girls in

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<sup>3148</sup> Vocational Education and Training in XinJiang, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content\\_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html)

<sup>3149</sup> Vocational Education and Training in XinJiang, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content\\_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/archive/whitepaper/201908/17/content_WS5d57573cc6d0c6695ff7ed6c.html)

<sup>3150</sup> UNESCO opens registration for the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, UNESCO (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-opens-registration-prize-girls-and-womens-education>

<sup>3151</sup> UNESCO opens registration for the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, UNESCO (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-opens-registration-prize-girls-and-womens-education>

<sup>3152</sup> UNESCO opens registration for the Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, UNESCO (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-opens-registration-prize-girls-and-womens-education>

<sup>3153</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://www.gov.cn/english/>, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org>, <http://www.most.gov.cn/eng/eng/index.htm>, <https://www.unwomen.org>.

<sup>3154</sup> "1 scientifique 1 classe : Chiche !" : un Programme Ambitieux de Médiation Scientifique Dédié à l'Informatique et aux Sciences du Numérique (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/1-scientifique-1-classe-chiche-un-programme-ambitieux-de-mediation-scientifique-dedie-l-informatique-9992>

<sup>3155</sup> "1 scientifique 1 classe : Chiche !" : un Programme Ambitieux de Médiation Scientifique Dédié à l'Informatique et aux Sciences du Numérique (Paris) 20 November 2019. Access date: 15 March 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/1-scientifique-1-classe-chiche-un-programme-ambitieux-de-mediation-scientifique-dedie-l-informatique-9992>

the Education System).<sup>3156</sup> The report has five goals: train all staff in equality, transmit to young people a culture of equality and mutual respect, combat gender-based and sexual violence and move towards a greater diversity of training courses.<sup>3157</sup>

On 24 January 2020, the government of France alongside the National Women’s Institute and UN Women announced the themes of the *Coaliciones para la Acción del Foro Generacion Igualdad*.<sup>3158</sup> This is a forum where governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations cooperate to achieve “concrete and transformative intergenerational results” for girls and women.<sup>3159</sup> The goal is to design a feminist agenda and action plans that will generate “tangible and irreversible results for gender equality during 2020–2030.”<sup>3160</sup> The agenda will address diverse issues such as education, structural inequalities and changes in gender norms.<sup>3161</sup>

On 11 May 2020, UNESCO’s Regional Bureau for Education in the Arab States and Education Cannot Wait (ECW) announced they will provide distance learning solutions for students in Lebanon.<sup>3162</sup> The Government of France supported funding for this initiative and is intended to help vulnerable children such as displaced girls in Lebanon to receive their education during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3163</sup> Additionally, the EDW, also funded partially by the Government of France, uses equity and gender equality in their programs to support girls in education initiatives.<sup>3164</sup>

France has made some efforts improving access for girls and women to STEM with the “1 Scientist — 1 class: Chiche!” program, however, it has not made any efforts to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training.

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<sup>3156</sup> Convention Interministérielle pour l’égalité Entre les Filles et les Garçons, les Femmes et les Hommes dans le Système Éducatif (Paris) 16 December 2019. Access date: 5 February 2020. [https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/MDE/11/6/VFinale\\_Convention\\_Interminis\\_Egalite\\_Nov2019\\_1211116.pdf](https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/MDE/11/6/VFinale_Convention_Interminis_Egalite_Nov2019_1211116.pdf)

<sup>3157</sup> Convention Interministérielle pour l’égalité Entre les Filles et les Garçons, les Femmes et les Hommes dans le Système Éducatif (Paris) 16 December 2019. Access date: 5 February 2020. [https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/MDE/11/6/VFinale\\_Convention\\_Interminis\\_Egalite\\_Nov2019\\_1211116.pdf](https://cache.media.eduscol.education.fr/file/MDE/11/6/VFinale_Convention_Interminis_Egalite_Nov2019_1211116.pdf)

<sup>3158</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3159</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3160</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3161</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3162</sup> UNESCO and Education Cannot Wait provide online learning material for teachers and students in Lebanon, UNESCO (Paris) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-education-cannot-wait-provide-online-learning-material-teachers-and-students-lebanon>

<sup>3163</sup> UNESCO and Education Cannot Wait provide online learning material for teachers and students in Lebanon, UNESCO (Paris) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-and-education-cannot-wait-provide-online-learning-material-teachers-and-students-lebanon>

<sup>3164</sup> The Fund, Education Cannot Wait (New York). Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/about-ecw/>

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Samantha Parker*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 18 September 2019, the Ministry of Education and Research requested proposals for international collaborative projects in STEM in order to support a unique opportunity for women to pursue scientific research at institutions in Germany and Africa.<sup>3165</sup> The research collaboration is intended to serve the Programme Advocating Women Scientists in STEM, which was established to promote STEM among women.<sup>3166</sup>

On 16 October 2019, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) stated its support for SAP Africa Code Week 2019.<sup>3167</sup> In this announcement, BMZ also stated its role in conducting workshops in 12 Africa countries with the focus of training girls and women.<sup>3168</sup>

On 23 October 2019, the BMZ collaborated with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) colleagues from Cameroon and Mozambique to host a #eSkills4Girls pre-conference workshop.<sup>3169</sup> The workshop aims to strengthen digital skill building for girls and women as well as discuss project implementation concepts regarding digital skill development.<sup>3170</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the BMZ announced support for the Equals in Tech Awards at the Internet Governance Forum in Berlin.<sup>3171</sup> The Equals in Tech Awards awards individuals and organizations that expand girls' and women's access, skills, and opportunities in the digital world.<sup>3172</sup>

On 2-6 March 2020, GIZ and the Betterplace Lab planned to organize a workshop at the UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2020, on behalf of the BMZ.<sup>3173</sup> The workshop will examine STEM technologies such as artificial intelligence, blockchain and virtual reality as potential tools for quality education, education administration and labour market match.<sup>3174</sup> GIZ will also present the publication of Toolkit "Education and Digitalisation in the Development Cooperation," on behalf of

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<sup>3165</sup> Programme Advocating Women Scientists in STEM (PAWS), Pre-Leap-Re (Gif-sur-Yvette), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.leap-re.eu/2019/09/18/programme-advocating-women-scientists-in-stem-paws/>

<sup>3166</sup> Programme Advocating Women Scientists in STEM (PAWS), Pre-Leap-Re (Gif-sur-Yvette), 18 September 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.leap-re.eu/2019/09/18/programme-advocating-women-scientists-in-stem-paws/>

<sup>3167</sup> SAP Africa Code Week 2019, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 16 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3168</sup> SAP Africa Code Week 2019, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 16 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3169</sup> eLearning Africa Workshop on #eSkills4Girls, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 23 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3170</sup> eLearning Africa Workshop on #eSkills4Girls, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 23 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3171</sup> Equals in Tech-Awards, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 27 November 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3172</sup> Equals in Tech-Awards, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 27 November 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3173</sup> UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2020, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3174</sup> UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2020, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

BMZ.<sup>3175</sup> The publication aims to provide insight on how digital technologies can assist inclusion in education where each individual has an equal opportunity for educational progress.<sup>3176</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the Competence Center Technology-Diversity-Equal Opportunities eV launched the annual “Girl’s Day-Future Prospects for Girls” initiative.<sup>3177</sup> While the official campaign was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many companies and organizations continued to offer their events digitally.<sup>3178</sup> “Girl’s Day-Future Prospects for Girls” is a day of action sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research and the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth that gives girls the opportunity to experience and learn about female underrepresented professions, with an emphasis on the field of STEM.<sup>3179</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the Minister of Family Affairs Dr. Franziska Giffey, announced that the German Federal Cabinet will adopt the “first national strategy for gender equality” aimed at improving gender equality in Germany.<sup>3180</sup> The measures outlined in the plan include increasing education in STEM, particularly for women and girls, starting with elementary education through the organization “Little Scientist’s House”.<sup>3181</sup> The purpose of this measure is to increase the proportion and interest of female students pursuing an education and career in STEM.<sup>3182</sup>

On 14 September 2020, UNSECO announced the launch of the EQUALS Digital Skills Hub. with the partnership of the Government of Germany.<sup>3183</sup> The EQUALS Digital Skills Hubs will provide digital skills resources and training for girls and women.<sup>3184</sup> This project aims to advance girls’ and women’s access to digital technologies.<sup>3185</sup>

Germany has fully complied with commitments to support girls’ and women’s education and training, including improved access to STEM by supporting international collaborative initiatives that include digital training workshops and tools to help quality education.

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<sup>3175</sup> UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2020, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3176</sup> UNESCO Mobile Learning Week 2020, #eSkills4Girls (Bonn), 2 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.eskills4girls.org/discover/activities/>

<sup>3177</sup> Girls' Day And Boys' Day: Only A Few Weeks Until March 26th, Girls Day (Bleifeld) 02 March 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/footer/presse/pressemitteilungen/girls-day-und-boys-day-nur-noch-wenige-wochen-bis-zum-26.-maerz>

<sup>3178</sup> Review: Girls Day, Girls Day (Bleifeld). Access Date: 17 September 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/daten-fakten/rueckschau/girls-day/2020>

<sup>3179</sup> Project Information, Girls Day (Bleifeld). October 2019. Access Date: 17 September 2020. <https://www.girls-day.de/daten-fakten/rueckschau/girls-day/2020>

<sup>3180</sup> Germany Unveils First National Strategy For Gender Equality, DW News (Bonn) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/gender-equality-germany/a-54086234>

<sup>3181</sup> National Pact For Women In STEM Professions ("Come, Do STEM.") And Funding Line "Success with STEM - New Opportunities For Women", Stark Für Die Zukunft (Berlin) 08 July 2020. Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.gleichstellungsstrategie.de/rgs-de/ziele/kultur-und-wissenschaft/nationaler-pakt-fuer-frauen-in-mint-berufen---komm--mach-mint---und-foerderlinie--erfolg-mit-mint---neue-chancen-fuer-frauen-/157994>

<sup>3182</sup> National Pact For Women In STEM Professions ("Come, Do STEM.") And Funding Line "Success with STEM - New Opportunities For Women", Stark Für Die Zukunft (Berlin) 08 July 2020. Access Date: 31 July 2020. <https://www.gleichstellungsstrategie.de/rgs-de/ziele/kultur-und-wissenschaft/nationaler-pakt-fuer-frauen-in-mint-berufen---komm--mach-mint---und-foerderlinie--erfolg-mit-mint---neue-chancen-fuer-frauen-/157994>

<sup>3183</sup> Launch of the EQUALS Digital Skills Hub for girls and women, UNESCO (Paris) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/launch-equals-digital-skills-hub-girls-and-women>

<sup>3184</sup> Launch of the EQUALS Digital Skills Hub for girls and women, UNESCO (Paris) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/launch-equals-digital-skills-hub-girls-and-women>

<sup>3185</sup> Launch of the EQUALS Digital Skills Hub for girls and women, UNESCO (Paris) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/launch-equals-digital-skills-hub-girls-and-women>

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Christina Muia and Meixi Zhang*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 14 February 2020, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) co-hosted a national conference to discuss Policy Framework for providing skill-based training for women and children.<sup>3186</sup> The ministries invited officials of the WCD, MSDE, industrial organizations and institutions. The conference discussed issues such as supporting women's skill development and entrepreneurship.<sup>3187</sup>

On 28 February 2020, President of India Ram Nath Kovind announced that three key initiatives will be implemented for gender advancement and equality in academic and research.<sup>3188</sup> Under this year's theme of Women in Science, the initiatives are Vigyan Jyoti, which allow meritorious girls in high school to pursue STEM subjects in their higher education, Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions, meant to assess gender inequality in STEM as well as an online portal for science and technology resources for women.<sup>3189</sup>

On 8 March 2020, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Science and Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan commenced a helpline number for women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists.<sup>3190</sup> This helpline will provide immediate support to women scientists in STEM and will be available during office hours on working days.<sup>3191</sup> The aim of this initiative is to allow women students and researchers to have one point of access for information on one dedicated number.<sup>3192</sup>

On 7 March 2020, under the partnership of Indo-US Science and Technology Forum and the Department of Science and Technology, around 20 Indian women scientists visited 20 leading institutions across the United States of America to further their research and to receive training in the

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<sup>3186</sup> Summary for the Month of February, 2020, Ministry of Skill Development (New Delhi) February 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.msde.gov.in/assets/images/monthly%20summary/Feb2020.pdf>

<sup>3187</sup> Summary for the Month of February, 2020, Ministry of Skill Development (New Delhi) February 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.msde.gov.in/assets/images/monthly%20summary/Feb2020.pdf>

<sup>3188</sup> National Science Day Brings Gender Equality in Science: President Announces Key Initiatives, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/national-science-day-brings-gender-equality-science-president-announces-key-initiatives>

<sup>3189</sup> National Science Day Brings Gender Equality in Science: President Announces Key Initiatives, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/national-science-day-brings-gender-equality-science-president-announces-key-initiatives>

<sup>3190</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

<sup>3191</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

<sup>3192</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

latest technologies related to their research.<sup>3193</sup> This initiative comes under the Indo-US Fellowship for Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine program to provide better opportunities to Indian women scientists, engineers and technologists.<sup>3194</sup>

On 8 March 2020, Union Minister for Science and Technology, Earth Science and Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan, commenced a helpline number for women students, researchers, entrepreneurs and scientists.<sup>3195</sup> This helpline will provide immediate support to women scientists in STEM and will be available during office hours on working days.<sup>3196</sup> The aim of this initiative is to allow women students and researchers to have one point of access for information on one dedicated number.<sup>3197</sup>

On 12 March 2020, the Indian Institutes of Technology announced that the percentage of reserved seats for women students will go up from 17 per cent to 20 per cent from the academic year 2020-21.<sup>3198</sup> The decision has been taken as a step towards the central government's goal of creating a gender balance in technical education.<sup>3199</sup>

India has fully complied with supporting girls' and women's education and training and increasing access for women to STEM. Through establishing the three initiatives, as well as the helpline, the Indian government is taking concrete steps in complying to their commitments in supporting girls' and women's education and training, as well as improved access to STEM.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Parul Wadhwa*

#### **Indonesia: -1**

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Indonesia has not taken any actions or made any collaborative commitments to support girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to STEM.

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<sup>3193</sup> 20 Women Granted Indo-US Fellowship In Science, Tech, Engineering, Math & Medicine, Indus Dictum (Pune) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://indusdictum.com/2020/03/07/20-women-granted-indo-us-fellowship-in-science-tech-engineering-math-medicine/>

<sup>3194</sup> "20 Women Granted Indo-US Fellowship in Science, Tech, Engineering, Math & Medicine", Indus Dictum (Pune) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://indusdictum.com/2020/03/07/20-women-granted-indo-us-fellowship-in-science-tech-engineering-math-medicine/>

<sup>3195</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

<sup>3196</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

<sup>3197</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan Launches Women Helpline for S&T Schemes, Department of Science and Technology (New Delhi) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://dst.gov.in/dr-harsh-varadhan-launches-women-helpline-st-schemes>

<sup>3198</sup> IITs Take Women's Quota to 20% as Govt Pushes Gender Balance in Tech Education, The Print (New Delhi) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://theprint.in/india/education/iits-take-womens-quota-to-20-as-govt-pushes-gender-balance-in-tech-education/379395/>

<sup>3199</sup> IITs Take Women's quota to 20% as Govt Pushes Gender Balance in Tech Education, The Print (New Delhi) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://theprint.in/india/education/iits-take-womens-quota-to-20-as-govt-pushes-gender-balance-in-tech-education/379395/>

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of  $-1$ .<sup>3200</sup>

*Analyst: Ruoban Mu*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 26 August 2019, the Government of Italy contributed a grant of EUR1 million to UNICEF Eritrea.<sup>3201</sup> The monetary grant is intended to support UNICEF's programme to provide education and life-skills opportunities.<sup>3202</sup> The programme will identify girls and children from disadvantaged families and provide them with cash incentives to support educational materials.<sup>3203</sup> Its aim is to promote girls' enrollment in school and transition to secondary education.<sup>3204</sup>

On 16 June 2020, Italian Minister for Family and Equal Opportunities, Elena Bonetti, announced the launch of STEM2020, a program in which the Government of Italy will invest EUR2 million between July to December 2020 for STEM-related courses for young girls and boys.<sup>3205</sup> The main goals of the program include empowering girls to engage with technical-scientific subjects, overcome gender-related stereotypes and stimulate scientific learning.<sup>3206</sup>

On 14 August 2020, Italian Minister Elena Bonetti announced the creation of a EUR3 million annual fund for training opportunities for housewives.<sup>3207</sup> The aim of this fund is to empower women to explore new employment opportunities and to improve vocational skills.<sup>3208</sup> Training courses in this

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<sup>3200</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites:

[https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS\\_665945/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_665945/lang--en/index.htm),

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/14/groups-encourage-indonesian-women-to-break-stigma-join-stem.html>, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/countries/indonesia>, <http://www.indonesia.cz/?s=STEM>,

<http://www.indonesia.cz/?s=women>, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/get-involved/step-it-up/commitments/indonesia>.

<sup>3201</sup> Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

<sup>3202</sup> Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

<sup>3203</sup> Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

<sup>3204</sup> Italy Grants €1 Million to UNICEF Eritrea, TesfaNews (Asmara) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.tesfanews.net/italy-grants-one-million-euro-unicef-eritrea/>

<sup>3205</sup> The Equal Opportunities Department Allocates 2 Million Euros for the Teaching of STEM Subjects, Stati Generali dell'Innovazione (Rome) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020.

<https://www.statigeneralinnovazione.it/online/il-dipartimento-pari-opportunita-stanzia-2-milioni-di-euro-per-linsegnamento-delle-materie-stem>

<sup>3206</sup> The Equal Opportunities Department Allocates 2 Million Euros for the Teaching of STEM Subjects, Stati Generali dell'Innovazione (Rome) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020.

<https://www.statigeneralinnovazione.it/online/il-dipartimento-pari-opportunita-stanzia-2-milioni-di-euro-per-linsegnamento-delle-materie-stem>

<sup>3207</sup> Housewives Bonus 2020: What It Is, Who It Is and How The Fund Works, The Italian Times (Rome) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.theitaliantimes.it/economia/bonus-casalinghe-cos-e-come-funziona-nuova-misura-decreto\\_230920](http://www.theitaliantimes.it/economia/bonus-casalinghe-cos-e-come-funziona-nuova-misura-decreto_230920)

<sup>3208</sup> Housewives Bonus 2020: What It Is, Who It Is and How The Fund Works, The Italian Times (Rome) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.theitaliantimes.it/economia/bonus-casalinghe-cos-e-come-funziona-nuova-misura-decreto\\_230920](http://www.theitaliantimes.it/economia/bonus-casalinghe-cos-e-come-funziona-nuova-misura-decreto_230920)



fund will focus on the financial and digital sectors, while a separate fund focused on training women in STEM fields to be announced later.<sup>3209</sup>

On 18 September 2020, Italian Minister Elena Bonetti announced an increase of EUR1 million for the STEM2020 program.<sup>3210</sup> The increased allocation is aimed to finance additional projects focused on strengthening women participation in STEM.<sup>3211</sup>

Italy has fully complied with this commitment by demonstrating support for girls' and women's education and training through financial support of educational and vocational programs. Italy has also taken action in supporting improved access to STEM fields for girls and women with their STEM2020 program, which meets two of the three standards of access (reachability and acceptability).

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Julia Orsini and Brandon Yib*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 1 September 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held the first event of "Let's be a STEM girl!" in Hirosaki City, Aomori Prefecture.<sup>3212</sup> The Cabinet Office invited keynote speakers including an associate professor of the Waseda University gave a speech on being a woman in the STEM field.<sup>3213</sup>

On 21 September 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held the second event of "Let's be a STEM girl!" for children, students, and parents to learn about science.<sup>3214</sup> The event included keynote speeches and experimental science experiments.<sup>3215</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced at a United Nations General Assembly that Japan pledges to "promote inclusive quality education for all girls and women."<sup>3216</sup> He

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<sup>3209</sup> Italy Plans "Housewife Bonus" To Get More Women Into Work, The Local Europe (Stockholm) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.thelocal.it/20200810/italy-plans-housewife-bonus-to-get-more-women-into-work>

<sup>3210</sup> Notice "STEM2020" – Increase of One Million Euros for the Financing of Projects Aimed at Implementing Educational Activities in STEM Subjects, Italian Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/avviso-stem2020-incremento-di-un-milione-di-euro-per-il-finanziamento-di-progetti-volti-a-realizzare-attivita-di-carattere-educativo-nelle-materie-stem>

<sup>3211</sup> Notice "STEM2020" – Increase of One Million Euros for the Financing of Projects Aimed at Implementing Educational Activities in STEM Subjects, Italian Department for Equal Opportunities (Rome) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <http://www.pariopportunita.gov.it/news/avviso-stem2020-incremento-di-un-milione-di-euro-per-il-finanziamento-di-progetti-volti-a-realizzare-attivita-di-carattere-educativo-nelle-materie-stem>

<sup>3212</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3213</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3214</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3215</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

expressed Japan's goal to educate a minimum of nine million children and young people in Sub-Saharan African and Asian nations.<sup>3217</sup> The goal includes expanding e-learning for primary school children in Sri Lanka and providing internet-based mathematics and science education in Rwanda.<sup>3218</sup>

On 5 October 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in STEM in Nagasaki.<sup>3219</sup> The Cabinet Office introduced female employees in the STEM sector and held a workshop where participants learned and utilized technological products.<sup>3220</sup>

On 4 November 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event in Maizuru that included lectures from Member of the Cabinet Office Ms. Miyoko Watanabe<sup>3221</sup> The event also included an experiment where participants had to utilize programming and algorithms.<sup>3222</sup>

On 10 November 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in the STEM field.<sup>3223</sup> The event included lectures from female employees from the STEM sector and an experimental classroom workshop on science.<sup>3224</sup>

On 16 November 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in the STEM field.<sup>3225</sup> The event included lectures from Member from the Cabinet Office Fusako Zunaiden and an experimental classroom workshop on electric circuits<sup>3226</sup>

On 23 November 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in the STEM field.<sup>3227</sup> The event included a lecture from a worker of the Cabinet Office, Emi Tamaki, and an experimental classroom workshop on 3D technology.<sup>3228</sup>

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<sup>3216</sup> At UN Debate, Japan Vows to Back Global Push for Inclusive Quality Education for All Girls and Women, United Nations News (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1047382>

<sup>3217</sup> At UN Debate, Japan Vows to Back Global Push for Inclusive Quality Education for All Girls and Women, United Nations News (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1047382>

<sup>3218</sup> At UN Debate, Japan Vows to Back Global Push for Inclusive Quality Education for All Girls and Women, United Nations News (New York) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/09/1047382>

<sup>3219</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 5 October 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3220</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 5 October 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3221</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3222</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3223</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3224</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3225</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3226</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 16 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3227</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3228</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 23 November 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

On 1 December 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in the STEM field.<sup>3229</sup> The event included lectures from workers from the Cabinet Office and an experimental classroom workshop on science.<sup>3230</sup>

On 15 December 2019, the Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office held an event for girls interested in the STEM field.<sup>3231</sup> The event included lectures from workers from the Cabinet Office and an experimental classroom workshop on DNA.<sup>3232</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Ambassador of Japan to Egypt Masaki Nokem and Chair of Gozour Foundation for Development Ali Moktar signed a grant contract of USD83,708 to implement vocational skills training for women in Old Cairo and its surrounding areas.<sup>3233</sup> This grant aims to aid women in need to become employable and generate income opportunities.<sup>3234</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the Government of Japan contributed USD909,091 for United Nations Women in Europe and Central Asia to protect and empower women and girls in marginalized and vulnerable communities in Kyrgyzstan and Moldova in light of urgent needs caused by COVID-19.<sup>3235</sup> This contribution will help initiate grassroots level gender-responsive programming and offer support to women to improve their livelihood, enhancing skills development and promoting gender-responsive policies for rural women affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3236</sup> The funds will be used to enhance collaboration with civil society organizations and provide online training and mentoring programs on business knowledge and financial literacy for women and girls.<sup>3237</sup>

On 3 September 2020, an interview with Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Motegi Toshimitsu by the UN Women reaffirmed Japan's commitment to realizing gender equality as one of its top

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<sup>3229</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3230</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 1 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3231</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 15 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3232</sup> STEM Girls Ambassadors Event, Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office (Tokyo) 15 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem\\_girls\\_ambassadors/event/20200108\\_01.html](http://www.gender.go.jp/c-challenge/stem_girls_ambassadors/event/20200108_01.html)

<sup>3233</sup> Japan provides assistance for empowerment and employment support for women in Old Cairo, Embassy of Japan in Egypt (Egypt) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. [https://www.eg.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/00\\_000085.html](https://www.eg.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000085.html)

<sup>3234</sup> Japan provides assistance for empowerment and employment support for women in Old Cairo, Embassy of Japan in Egypt (Egypt) 20 February 2020. Access Date: 15 March 2020. [https://www.eg.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/00\\_000085.html](https://www.eg.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/00_000085.html)

<sup>3235</sup> UN Women And The Government Of Japan Gearing Up To Empower Women Affected By COVID-19 In Europe And Central Asia, UN Women Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/un-women-and-the-govt-of-japan-gearing-up-to-empower-women-affected-by-covid19-in-eca>

<sup>3236</sup> UN Women And The Government Of Japan Gearing Up To Empower Women Affected By COVID-19 In Europe And Central Asia, UN Women Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/un-women-and-the-govt-of-japan-gearing-up-to-empower-women-affected-by-covid19-in-eca>

<sup>3237</sup> UN Women And The Government Of Japan Gearing Up To Empower Women Affected By COVID-19 In Europe And Central Asia, UN Women Europe and Central Asia (Istanbul) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://eca.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/un-women-and-the-govt-of-japan-gearing-up-to-empower-women-affected-by-covid19-in-eca>

agendas.<sup>3238</sup> As a key donor to UN Women, Japan fully supports UN Women’s Leadership, Access, Empowerment and Protection in Crisis Response Flagship Programme.<sup>3239</sup> Japan endorses the “empowerment of next generations and women” which is one of three goals to achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment sustainable development goals.<sup>3240</sup>

Japan has actively promoted government-sponsored activities through STEM Girl Ambassadors that support the training of girls and women in the STEM field. Additionally, Japan has collaborated with other nations to expand education and vocational training programs in those countries. However, Japan has yet to act on its commitment to improve the accessibility of STEM for girls and women such as by improving affordability or government support.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and vocational training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 21 October 2019, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family opened its first training session for the women’s vocational training for trainees from developing countries in Asia.<sup>3241</sup> The training session included a visit to the Saeil center for Vocational Training for Women in Wanju and Dongdaemun Design Plaza to discuss policies for nurturing the vocational capabilities of women in their home countries.<sup>3242</sup> This program is intended to teach vocational training policies for trainees that will be used in the developing countries of Asia.<sup>3243</sup>

On 26 December 2019, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family wrote a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of Employment of Sweden for policy exchangers of the

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<sup>3238</sup> Interview With Motegi Toshimitsu, Japanese Minister For Foreign Affairs, UN Women (New York) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/partner-profile-interview-japanese-minister-for-foreign-affairs-motegi-toshimitsu>

<sup>3239</sup> Interview With Motegi Toshimitsu, Japanese Minister For Foreign Affairs, UN Women (New York) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/partner-profile-interview-japanese-minister-for-foreign-affairs-motegi-toshimitsu>

<sup>3240</sup> Interview With Motegi Toshimitsu, Japanese Minister For Foreign Affairs, UN Women (New York) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/9/partner-profile-interview-japanese-minister-for-foreign-affairs-motegi-toshimitsu>

<sup>3241</sup> Group of trainees from developing countries in Asia visit places of vocational education for women in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604)

<sup>3242</sup> Group of trainees from developing countries in Asia visit places of vocational education for women in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604)

<sup>3243</sup> Group of trainees from developing countries in Asia visit places of vocational education for women in Korea, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706604)

improvement of gender equality.<sup>3244</sup> The MOU included a provision on joint operation of lectures and education programs as well as internal conferences on gender equality.<sup>3245</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the Minister of Gender Equality and Family signed a MOU with the Minister of Science and ICT in advancing policies for women in the sectors of science and technology.<sup>3246</sup> The MOU included a provision on the “enhancement of women’s science/engineering-related power.”<sup>3247</sup> The ministers announced a plan to expand the number of science/technology-based centers for women.<sup>3248</sup> They also stated their intention of providing support for women who want to specialize in science/technology.<sup>3249</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the government of Tanzania, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations Population Fund signed an agreement to support a new USD5 million joint programme called “Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls” in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.<sup>3250</sup> The programme will address socio-economic challenges facing women and adolescent girls in rural Tanzania, which include barriers to economic empowerment, and social norms and values that perpetuate gender-based-violence and harmful practices.<sup>3251</sup>

On 10 September 2020, Korea collaborated with UN Women, the Asian Development Bank and other Governments from Fiji, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Samoa to protect women and girls in the Asia-Pacific region from COVID-19’s negative consequences on jobs, livelihoods and well-being. This initiative will advocate for a gender-based recovery from COVID-19 by understanding the impacts of COVID-19 on tackling violence against women, promoting gender-responsive budgeting and strengthening gender-responsive procurement to support women’s businesses and jobs.<sup>3252</sup>

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<sup>3244</sup> Korea to strengthen cooperation with Sweden for gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706771](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706771)

<sup>3245</sup> Korea to strengthen cooperation with Sweden for gender equality, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020.

[http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706771](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706771)

<sup>3246</sup> Science/Technology policies for women/youth/family, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860)

<sup>3247</sup> Science/Technology policies for women/youth/family, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860)

<sup>3248</sup> Science/Technology policies for women/youth/family, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860)

<sup>3249</sup> Science/Technology policies for women/youth/family, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (Seoul) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. [http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng\\_pr\\_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860](http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/pr/eng_pr_s101d.do?mid=eng001&bbsn=706860)

<sup>3250</sup> KOICA Partners With UNFPA and UN Women To Empower Women And Adolescent Girls Singida And Shinyanga Regions, United Nations Population Fund News (Dar es Salaam) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020.

<https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/koica-partners-unfpa-and-un-women-empower-women-and-adolescent-girls-singida-and-shinyanga>

<sup>3251</sup> KOICA Partners With UNFPA and UN Women To Empower Women And Adolescent Girls Singida And Shinyanga Regions, United Nations Population Fund News (Dar es Salaam) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020.

<https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/koica-partners-unfpa-and-un-women-empower-women-and-adolescent-girls-singida-and-shinyanga>

<sup>3252</sup> KOICA Partners With UNFPA and UN Women To Empower Women And Adolescent Girls Singida And Shinyanga Regions, United Nations Population Fund News (Dar es Salaam) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020.

<https://tanzania.unfpa.org/en/news/koica-partners-unfpa-and-un-women-empower-women-and-adolescent-girls-singida-and-shinyanga>

On 29 September 2020, UN Women and UNFPA announced their launch of a USD5 million Joint Programme entitled “Realizing Gender Equality through Empowering Women and Adolescent Girls” with funding from the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).<sup>3253</sup> This project aims to assist 48,000 households in Tanzania, with a special focus on women and girls.<sup>3254</sup> The project will provide women with financial training to enhance women’s access to finance and adolescent girls with vocational and life skills training.<sup>3255</sup>

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training by providing vocational training programs and planning on coordinating education programs with other countries. Korea has also demonstrated action in increasing girls’ and women’s increased access to STEM by issuing a MOU for women’s increased participation in the science and technology sector.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls’ and women’s education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 21 November 2019, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador signed the Agreement for Equality between Women and Men.<sup>3256</sup> The objective is to warrant political participation of women, equal access to health, education and economic resources.<sup>3257</sup> Amongst the commitments, it was stated that Mexico commits to the creation of more formal work, better conditions and more rights for women as well as ensuring equal opportunities, education, respect, peace and security for women.<sup>3258</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Relations released a policy with the application of “a gender perspective across all sectors.”<sup>3259</sup> The objective of the policy is “to reduce and eliminate structural differences, gender gaps and inequalities, in order to build a more just and prosperous

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<sup>3253</sup> UNFPA and UN Women partner with Korea to advance gender equality, United Nations Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://tanzania.un.org/en/93080-unfpa-and-un-women-partner-korea-advance-gender-equality>

<sup>3254</sup> UNFPA and UN Women partner with Korea to advance gender equality, United Nations Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://tanzania.un.org/en/93080-unfpa-and-un-women-partner-korea-advance-gender-equality>

<sup>3255</sup> UNFPA and UN Women partner with Korea to advance gender equality, United Nations Tanzania (Dar Es Salaam) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://tanzania.un.org/en/93080-unfpa-and-un-women-partner-korea-advance-gender-equality>

<sup>3256</sup> Suplemento TODAS Mujeres Juntas Transformando México 13/08/2019. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/es/articulos/suplemento-todas-mujeres-transformando-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>3257</sup> Suplemento TODAS Mujeres Juntas Transformando México 13/08/2019. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/es/articulos/suplemento-todas-mujeres-transformando-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>3258</sup> Suplemento TODAS Mujeres Juntas Transformando México 13/08/2019. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/es/articulos/suplemento-todas-mujeres-transformando-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>3259</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy 09/01/2020. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>

society.”<sup>3260</sup> The policy is intended to make visible contribution of women to foreign policy, provide vocational workshops as well as provide other initiatives that encourage gender equality and non-discrimination.<sup>3261</sup>

On 24 January 2020, the National Women’s Institute alongside the government of France and UN Women announced the themes of the “Coaliciones para la Acción del Foro Generacion Igualdad.”<sup>3262</sup> This forum is intended for governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations to cooperate and achieve “concrete and transformative intergenerational results” for girls and women.<sup>3263</sup> The goal is to design an agenda and action plans that will generate “tangible and irreversible results for gender equality during 2020-2030.”<sup>3264</sup> The agenda will address diverse issues such as education, structural inequalities and changes in gender norms.<sup>3265</sup>

On 3 January 2020, the Minister of Public Education reaffirmed the importance of STEM for Mexico’s New Mexican School program.<sup>3266</sup> The program was introduced on 11 May 2020 by Mexico’s Ministry of Public Education and is set to be implemented in the 2021-22 school year.<sup>3267</sup> The program is a new education model that will include promotion of gender equality, STEM-related fields, Indigenous languages, and sexual and reproductive health education, among other topics.

On 17 July 2020, the Headquarters of The Office of the President of the Republic, the Secretariat of the Interior, the Women’s National Institute (INMUJERES), the German Agency for International Cooperation and Sustainable Development in Mexico and Socialab organized the “Hackathon 2020: post-COVID-19 women and girls.”<sup>3268</sup> The project aimed for innovative solutions to obstacles women face in Mexico and the ten best initiatives to be implemented in the short term (six months) will receive financial support and advice from investors to guarantee their results.<sup>3269</sup> Equity, equality

<sup>3260</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy 09/01/2020. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>

<sup>3261</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy 09/01/2020. Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 10 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>

<sup>3262</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3263</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3264</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3265</sup> Inmujeres y Unicef Unen Esfuerzos Para Impulsar la Escuela de Fortalecimiento de Liderazgos Adolescentes 24/01/2020, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 24 January 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-y-unicef-firman-memorando-de-entendimiento-para-impulsar-la-escuela-de-fortalecimiento-de-liderazgos-adolescentes?idiom=es>

<sup>3266</sup> Nuevo Modelo Educativo Busca Sociedad Incorruptible: SEP, Milenio, 3 January 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.milenio.com/politica/modelo-educativo-busca-sociedad-incorruptible-sep>.

<sup>3267</sup> Qué es la Nueva Escuela Mexicana (NEM), Nueva Escuela Mexicana, n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<sup>3268</sup> Inmujeres Supports Innovative Initiatives That Promote The Development Of Women And Girls, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-apoya-iniciativas-innovadoras-que-fomenten-el-desarrollo-de-mujeres-y-ninas?idiom=es>

<sup>3269</sup> Inmujeres Supports Innovative Initiatives That Promote The Development Of Women And Girls, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-apoya-iniciativas-innovadoras-que-fomenten-el-desarrollo-de-mujeres-y-ninas?idiom=es>

as well as developing economic autonomy for women and girls who do not have access to ICTs or the internet during the pandemic were a few of the central themes in the Hackathon.<sup>3270</sup>

On 22 September 2020, the Government of Mexico presented the virtual business conference MujerExportaMX.<sup>3271</sup> The forum, which will occur from 26 October to 30 October, is a project organized by Secretariats of Economy, Culture, Finance and Public Credit in partnership with INMUJERES, and with the cooperation of the Inter-American Development Bank, Connect Americas and Organization of Women In International Trade Mexico.<sup>3272</sup> The event will allow Mexican businesswomen to receive training, and learn more about entrepreneurship and how to enter international markets.<sup>3273</sup> The goal is to provide support and strategies to overcome challenges in the field and enhance female entrepreneurs' abilities.<sup>3274</sup>

Mexico has implemented programs and initiatives that support girls' and women's education and training by developing strategies to reduce gender inequality in areas such as: education, health, politics and safety. Mexico has taken partial steps to improve girls' and women's access to STEM.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 9 December 2019, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection approved an action plan to implement the 2019-2022 National Strategy for Women, which provides measures to improve the status and prosperity of women of all ages, politically, economically and socially.<sup>3275</sup> The ministry, with various women's public organizations, formed 20 projects aimed at enhancing women's roles in

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<sup>3270</sup> Inmujeres Supports Innovative Initiatives That Promote The Development Of Women And Girls, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/inmujeres-apoya-iniciativas-innovadoras-que-fomenten-el-desarrollo-de-mujeres-y-ninas?idiom=es>

<sup>3271</sup> MujerExportaMx, First Multisectoral Virtual Business Conference For Mexican Businesswomen, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujerexportamx-primera-rueda-de-negocios-virtual-multisectorial-para-empresarias-mexicanas?idiom=es>

<sup>3272</sup> MujerExportaMx, First Multisectoral Virtual Business Conference For Mexican Businesswomen, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujerexportamx-primera-rueda-de-negocios-virtual-multisectorial-para-empresarias-mexicanas?idiom=es>

<sup>3273</sup> MujerExportaMx, First Multisectoral Virtual Business Conference For Mexican Businesswomen, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujerexportamx-primera-rueda-de-negocios-virtual-multisectorial-para-empresarias-mexicanas?idiom=es>

<sup>3274</sup> MujerExportaMx, First Multisectoral Virtual Business Conference For Mexican Businesswomen, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inmujeres/articulos/mujerexportamx-primera-rueda-de-negocios-virtual-multisectorial-para-empresarias-mexicanas?idiom=es>

<sup>3275</sup> G. Karelova: Regions Should be More Actively Involved in the Development of Plans for the implementation of the National Strategy for Women, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2794/>



the digital society, industry and all spheres of life, through use of new technologies.<sup>3276</sup> Joint efforts of the federal centre and respective regions is intended to ensure success of the programs.<sup>3277</sup>

On 20 January 2020, Deputy Chair of the Federation Council Galina Karelova met with women leaders of regional public women's entrepreneurial organizations.<sup>3278</sup> The event's aim was to discuss ways of creating conducive operating environments for women, and finding ways to include them in economic issues.<sup>3279</sup> Educational and financial projects programs were presented, endeavouring to increase accessibility to business, marketing and financial information by women.<sup>3280</sup>

On 21 May 2020, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator, Achim Steiner, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov, announced a USD30 million replenishment of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for development.<sup>3281</sup> The fund supports country programmes, boosting the economic stability of women and girls in developing nations.<sup>3282</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the Council of the Eurasian Women's Forum, together with relevant ministries and women's public organizations, formed projects aimed at expanding women participation in industry, the digital economy, corporate charity and territorial development initiatives and projects in the interest of women.<sup>3283</sup>

Russia has shown partial commitment to improving access to STEM sectors in its 2019-2020 National Strategy for Women, which aims to increase women's participation in the digital economy. However, this does not meet the threshold of reachability, affordability and acceptability, as well, there have been no actions taken to support girls' and women's education and training.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Lucia Dhafana-Mabika*

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<sup>3276</sup> G. Karelova: Regions Should be More Actively Involved in the Development of Plans for the implementation of the National Strategy for Women, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2794/>

<sup>3277</sup> G. Karelova: Regions Should be More Actively Involved in the Development of Plans for the implementation of the National Strategy for Women, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2794/>

<sup>3278</sup> Eurasian Female Forum: Galina Karelova met With Women Leaders of Regional Public Women's Entrepreneurial Organizations, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2792/>

<sup>3279</sup> Eurasian Female Forum: Galina Karelova met With Women Leaders of Regional Public Women's Entrepreneurial Organizations, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2792/>

<sup>3280</sup> Eurasian Female Forum: Galina Karelova met With Women Leaders of Regional Public Women's Entrepreneurial Organizations, Eurasian Female Forum (St. Petersburg) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://eawf.ru/press/2792/>

<sup>3281</sup> Russia and UNDP Announce US \$30 Million Top-Up in Joint Fund, UNDP (New York) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/Russia\\_UNDP\\_announce\\_USD30m\\_top-up\\_in\\_joint\\_fund.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/Russia_UNDP_announce_USD30m_top-up_in_joint_fund.html)

<sup>3282</sup> Russia and UNDP Announce US \$30 Million Top-Up in Joint Fund, UNDP (New York) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/Russia\\_UNDP\\_announce\\_USD30m\\_top-up\\_in\\_joint\\_fund.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/news-centre/news/2020/Russia_UNDP_announce_USD30m_top-up_in_joint_fund.html)

<sup>3283</sup> Galina Karelova: Active Work Has Begun on Preparations for the Third Eurasian Women's Forum, Eurasian Women Forum, Innosocium Foundation (Moscow) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 15 September 2020. <https://eawf.ru/news/novosti-soveta-ezhf/vse-novostig-karelova-nachalas-aktivnaya-rabota-po-podgotovke-k-tretemu-evraziyskomu-zhenskomu-forum/>

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 10 July 2019, the Permanent Delegation of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations held a seminar on the role of quality education in increasing the participation of women in the labour market.<sup>3284</sup> The delegation held a panel discussion on the means of achievement and the percentage of Saudi women working in Saudi Arabia, as well as national policies to increase their participation in the labor market, one of the most important objectives of Vision 2030.<sup>3285</sup>

On 7 September 2019, the Ministry of Labour and Social Development announced the graduation of 120 women trainees from their Leadership Training and Guidance initiative.<sup>3286</sup> Their continued support of this initiative aims to train up to 1,700 women with vocational and leadership training to work in the private sector.<sup>3287</sup> The training included network-making opportunities, lessons on strategic planning, and the training women to work in the government in the future.<sup>3288</sup>

On 8 March 2020, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT) hosted the second Women Enablement in Technology Sector Summit at the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Riyadh.<sup>3289</sup> The Summit is intended to promote and train women to enter the information and communications technology (ICT) field in accordance with the Kingdom's Vision 2030.<sup>3290</sup> In the summit, Microsoft announced that it will partner with MCIT to invest in STEM education for women. This initiative will include training 600 female students in ICT.<sup>3291</sup>

On 22 July 2020, as part of this year's Saudi Presidency of the G20, state-owned Saudi Aramco and the official G20 engagement group, Women 20 announced their partnership.<sup>3292</sup> "This partnership with Aramco's Diversity and Inclusion Team will help further the agenda, in particular in the science and technology (STEM) field, where women are not adequately represented."<sup>3293</sup>

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<sup>3284</sup> Saudi Arabia's Delegation to the United Nations Holds a Symposium on the Role of Education in Increasing the Participation of Women in the Labor Market, Saudi Press Agency (New York) 10 July 2019. Access Date: February 5 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1944650>

<sup>3285</sup> Saudi Arabia's Delegation to the United Nations Holds a Symposium on the Role of Education in Increasing the Participation of Women in the Labor Market, Saudi Press Agency (New York) 10 July 2019. Access Date: February 5 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=1944650>

<sup>3286</sup> Female trainees graduate through Saudi ministry's leadership initiative, Arab News (Riyadh) 09 September 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1551131/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3287</sup> Female trainees graduate through Saudi ministry's leadership initiative, Arab News (Riyadh) 09 September 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1551131/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3288</sup> Female trainees graduate through Saudi ministry's leadership initiative, Arab News (Riyadh) 09 September 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1551131/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3289</sup> Microsoft Arabia's 'DigiGirlz 2020' to train women in ICT, Arab News (Riyadh) 29 March 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1649131/corporate-news>

<sup>3290</sup> Microsoft Arabia's 'DigiGirlz 2020' to train women in ICT, Arab News (Riyadh) 29 March 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1649131/corporate-news>

<sup>3291</sup> Microsoft Arabia's 'DigiGirlz 2020' to train women in ICT, Arab News (Riyadh) 29 March 2020. Access Date: March 29 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1649131/corporate-news>

<sup>3292</sup> "W20, Aramco announce partnership to promote gender equality", Saudi Gazette (Riyadh/Dubai) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/595829/SAUDI-ARABIA/W20-Aramco-announce-partnership-to-promote-gender-equality>

<sup>3293</sup> "W20, Aramco announce partnership to promote gender equality", Saudi Gazette (Riyadh/Dubai) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 29 July 2020. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/595829/SAUDI-ARABIA/W20-Aramco-announce-partnership-to-promote-gender-equality>

On 17 September 2020, the Government of Saudi Arabia inaugurated the first two digital colleges for women in Riyadh and Jeddah.<sup>3294</sup> The colleges aim to provide specialized training programs for around 4,000 female trainees in several digital fields.<sup>3295</sup> The colleges' programs will offer education on network systems management, media technology, software, artificial intelligence and robotics technology.<sup>3296</sup>

Saudi Arabia has demonstrated action in increasing girls' and women's access to STEM by holding a summit and creating an initiative to invest in training for information technology. It has also taken action to continue its support of providing education and vocational training for women.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Parul Wadhawan*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to support education and vocational training for girls and women as well as increase access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 9 August 2019, Minister of the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Maite Nkoana-Mashabane announced a gender equality campaign called “#WhatWomenWant.”<sup>3297</sup> This campaign aims to encourage women to talk about the challenges they face and to reflect on South Africa's achievements towards gender equality.<sup>3298</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities approved the national Sanitary Dignity Implementation Framework.<sup>3299</sup> The framework operationalizes girls' and women's access to sanitary dignity.<sup>3300</sup> This framework is intended to improve girls' access to education. It specifies that the government will address the sanitary dignity for girls in rural schools and women attending post-school education and vocational training institutions.<sup>3301</sup>

On 13 July 2020, the Small Enterprise Development Agency under the Department of Small Business Development created the Fem-In-Tech Development Programme, in collaboration with the

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<sup>3294</sup> Saudi education minister opens two digital colleges for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1735796/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3295</sup> Saudi education minister opens two digital colleges for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1735796/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3296</sup> Saudi education minister opens two digital colleges for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1735796/saudi-arabia>

<sup>3297</sup> The #WhatWomenWant campaign: Here are all the details, Times LIVE (Johannesburg) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-08-09-the-whatwomenwant-campaign-here-are-all-the-details/>

<sup>3298</sup> The #WhatWomenWant campaign: Here are all the details, Times LIVE (Johannesburg) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2019-08-09-the-whatwomenwant-campaign-here-are-all-the-details/>

<sup>3299</sup> The girl-child's menstrual voice has been heard in South Africa, Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.women.gov.za/images/20191011-International-Day-of-the-Girl-Child.pdf>

<sup>3300</sup> The girl-child's menstrual voice has been heard in South Africa, Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.women.gov.za/images/20191011-International-Day-of-the-Girl-Child.pdf>

<sup>3301</sup> The girl-child's menstrual voice has been heard in South Africa, Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities (Pretoria) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <http://www.women.gov.za/images/20191011-International-Day-of-the-Girl-Child.pdf>

SA Innovation Summit.<sup>3302</sup> This Programme aims to encourage and increase female entrepreneurship in South Africa by providing skills training, and culminates in a Demo Day where female founders can showcase their start-ups to be matched with potential investors and other business supporters.<sup>3303</sup> This Programme was designed for South African start-ups in the technology or technology-related sectors that are founded or managed by women.<sup>3304</sup>

On 9 August 2020, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa committed to expand access to economic opportunities for women by setting a target of 40 per cent of public procurements for female-owned businesses for the next 12 months.<sup>3305</sup> President Ramaphosa also announced plans to support women-led micro-businesses and plans to guarantee the safety of women from gender-based violence in workplaces.<sup>3306</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the Department of Science and Innovation collaborated with the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, Black Women in Science and Nka’Thuto EduPropeller to host a webinar series in place of major public events because of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3307</sup> This initiative is meant to encourage women’s participation in STEM-related research and to celebrate accomplishments by women scientists.<sup>3308</sup>

South Africa has supported education and vocational training for girls by passing a national framework aimed at alleviating gender disparity in educational institutions. However, it has not taken action to increase girls’ and women’s improved access to STEM.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Brandon Yib*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to support education and vocational training for girls and women as well as increasing girls’ and women’s access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 24 September 2019, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) inaugurated

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<sup>3302</sup> Fem-in-Tech Development Programme to empowers female startups, Independent Online (Durban) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/fem-in-tech-development-programme-to-empowers-female-startups-50910827>

<sup>3303</sup> Fem-in-Tech Development Programme to empowers female startups, Independent Online (Durban) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/fem-in-tech-development-programme-to-empowers-female-startups-50910827>

<sup>3304</sup> Fem-in-Tech Development Programme to empowers female startups, Independent Online (Durban) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/fem-in-tech-development-programme-to-empowers-female-startups-50910827>

<sup>3305</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: Women’s Day 2020, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-womens-day-2020-9-aug-2020-0000>

<sup>3306</sup> President Cyril Ramaphosa: Women’s Day 2020, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/president-cyril-ramaphosa-womens-day-2020-9-aug-2020-0000>

<sup>3307</sup> South African Women in Science Webinar Series Starts Today, Republic of South Africa’s Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/media-room/latest-news/3149-south-african-women-in-science-webinar-series-starts-today>

<sup>3308</sup> South African Women in Science Webinar Series Starts Today, Republic of South Africa’s Department of Science and Innovation (Pretoria) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.dst.gov.za/index.php/media-room/latest-news/3149-south-african-women-in-science-webinar-series-starts-today>

the UNRWA Amman New Camp Preparatory Girls' School 1 and 2.<sup>3309</sup> Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism Mohammad Nuri Ersoy noted that education for all, including girls and refugees, is a key focus for TIKA.<sup>3310</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the Turkish Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services announced the "Empowerment of Women Through Cooperatives" project to be implemented in 2021.<sup>3311</sup> This project will expand the amount of cooperatives allowing women to join for self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.<sup>3312</sup> In addition to increased loans for female entrepreneurs provided by the Turkish government, this project aims to increase women's employment.<sup>3313</sup>

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to promote education and vocational training for girls and women by working with international agencies to support educational initiatives. However, Turkey has not introduced any measures to improve access for women to STEM.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Brandon Yih*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and vocational training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 20 September 2019, the British Embassy in Warsaw, Poland, and the UK Science and Innovation Network, alongside the Polish Embassy in London and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, jointly hosted the second Polish-British Science Forum: Women in STEM at the Senate House in London.<sup>3314</sup> The forum brought together top scientists to speak on the challenges and opportunities for women in STEM.<sup>3315</sup> The Forum hosted workshops and a series of panel

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<sup>3309</sup> Government of Turkey Supports UNRWA Education Programme in Jordan Through TIKA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Amman) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/government-turkey-supports-unrwa-education-programme-jordan-through-tika>

<sup>3310</sup> Government of Turkey Supports UNRWA Education Programme in Jordan Through TIKA, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (Amman) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 12 December 2019. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/government-turkey-supports-unrwa-education-programme-jordan-through-tika>

<sup>3311</sup> Women's Cooperatives Will Be The Key to Women's Employment, Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services (Ankara) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.ailevecalisma.gov.tr/tr-tr/haberler/kadin-istihdaminin-anahtari-kadin-kooperatifleri-olacak/>

<sup>3312</sup> Training on Cooperatives to Empower Turkey's Female Entrepreneurs, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/training-on-cooperatives-to-empower-turkeys-female-entrepreneurs/news>

<sup>3313</sup> Training on Cooperatives to Empower Turkey's Female Entrepreneurs, Daily Sabah (Istanbul) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/training-on-cooperatives-to-empower-turkeys-female-entrepreneurs/news>

<sup>3314</sup> Second Polish-British Science Forum: Women in STEM, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Government of Poland, Website of the Republic of Poland (Warsaw) September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.pl/web/science/2nd-polish-british-science-forum-women-in-stem>

<sup>3315</sup> Second Polish-British Science Forum: Women in STEM, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Government of Poland, Website of the Republic of Poland (Warsaw) September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.pl/web/science/2nd-polish-british-science-forum-women-in-stem>

discussions focusing on girls and women taking up STEM education and careers and also gender equality in STEM in Poland and in the UK.<sup>3316</sup>

On 24 September 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP515 million investment for over 12 million girls to go to school around the world.<sup>3317</sup> This funding builds on the GBP90 million that was committed at the 2019 G7 Biarritz Summit and is part of the UK's promise to the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>3318</sup> The funding will ensure that girls receive basic literacy and numeracy education, get children in conflict zones into schools and mobilise investment for education in Africa and Asia with a focus on marginalised children.<sup>3319</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the UK announced GBP3.5 million in aid for the SheTrades Commonwealth programme which boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets.<sup>3320</sup> With the UK support, the program will create up to 3,000 more jobs in female-run businesses and empower women in Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana will have greater access to business and trade opportunities.<sup>3321</sup> The program also provides skills-based training and tailored business training and mentoring to help women entrepreneurs manage and promote their businesses better.<sup>3322</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the representative for the Special Envoy for Girls' Education, Baroness Sugg stated that the UK will be launching the quality education programme in Africa early next year that would increase the proportion of girls making the transition from primary school to secondary school.<sup>3323</sup> In addition, the UK has committed additional funding of GBP20 million to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for child protection, and an additional GBP5 million grant to Education Cannot Wait to keep the most vulnerable children in 26 countries safe and learning, as well as UNICEF

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<sup>3316</sup> Second Polish-British Science Forum: Women in STEM, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Government of Poland, Website of the Republic of Poland (Warsaw) September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020.

<https://www.gov.pl/web/science/2nd-polish-british-science-forum-women-in-stem>

<sup>3317</sup> PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

<sup>3318</sup> PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

<sup>3319</sup> PM steps up UK effort to get every girl in the world into school, Prime Minister's Office, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-steps-up-uk-effort-to-get-every-girl-in-the-world-into-school>

<sup>3320</sup> UK aid boost support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

<sup>3321</sup> UK aid boost support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Government of United Kingdom (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

<sup>3322</sup> UK aid boost support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Department for International Development, Government of United Kingdom (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>

<sup>3323</sup> Investing In Education And Accelerating Action On The SDGs, Website of the Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/investing-in-education-and-accelerating-action-on-the-sdgs>

Opening Up Better campaign to ensure all children, including 650 million girls, are able to return to school when it is safe to do so.<sup>3324</sup>

On 10 September 2020, United Kingdom Political Coordinator Sonia Farrey at the United Nations Security Council made a statement confirming the United Kingdom endorsement of quality education for all girls by 2030.<sup>3325</sup> Farrey reiterated the country's support for Education Cannot Wait which included USD6.5 million as an additional grant to support COVID-19 specific emergency education in fragile contexts. The United Kingdom also endorses the Safe School Declaration.<sup>3326</sup>

The United Kingdom has passed initiatives showing continued support for girls' and women's education both domestically and abroad. It has also invested in vocational and technical training of women entrepreneurs in African countries. However, the UK has not taken action to improve girls' and women's access to STEM.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wing Ka Tsang*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 3 September 2019, Deputy Secretary of State, John Sullivan, stated that the United States will further the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative launched in July 2019.<sup>3327</sup> The Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative aims to reach 50 million women in the developing world by 2025.<sup>3328</sup> This initiative will be a multi-donor trust fund managed by the World Bank and aims to boost market access, networks and promote skills enhancement, while strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems in support of women-owned and women-led businesses.<sup>3329</sup> The aim is to reach more than 19,000 women, in underserved Latin America and Colombian communities.<sup>3330</sup>

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<sup>3324</sup> Investing In Education And Accelerating Action On The SDGs, Website of the Government of the United Kingdom (London) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/investing-in-education-and-accelerating-action-on-the-sdgs>

<sup>3325</sup> Ensuring 12 Years Of Quality Education For Children Around The World, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office United Kingdom (London) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ensuring-12-years-of-quality-education-for-children-around-the-world>

<sup>3326</sup> Ensuring 12 Years Of Quality Education For Children Around The World, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office United Kingdom (London) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/ensuring-12-years-of-quality-education-for-children-around-the-world>

<sup>3327</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

<sup>3328</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

<sup>3329</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

<sup>3330</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

On 3 September 2019, the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs launched a new program called the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs. The program aims to teach and mentor women around the world (launched in 26 countries) to become successful entrepreneurs.<sup>3331</sup> To support the program, Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management partnered with the mining company, Freeport-McMoRan to develop an online course, DreamBuilder, meant to help women formulate business plans.<sup>3332</sup>

On 25 September 2019, the United States pledged USD13 million to Education Cannot Wait.<sup>3333</sup> This is a global fund that aims to enable access to inclusive and quality education for girls and boys affected by global humanitarian crises such as armed conflicts, forced displacements and natural disasters.<sup>3334</sup> The funding was announced at the "Leave No One Behind: Accelerating the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] Through Quality Education" event held at UNICEF during the UN General Assembly.<sup>3335</sup> The objective is to mobilize USD1.8 billion by 2021 to reach 9 million children.<sup>3336</sup>

On 28 October 2019, Congressmen Brian Fitzpatrick and Senator Joaquin Castro introduced the Global Child Thrive Act.<sup>3337</sup> Senator Castro reaffirmed the United States' commitment to early childhood education in the developing world, stating that this "bill directs relevant federal departments and agencies to incorporate early childhood development into their work and builds on existing interagency collaboration."<sup>3338</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Office of Global Women's Issues reaffirmed their commitment to support women as a follow up to the launch of the W-GDP, which is the first ever whole-of-government approach to global women's economic empowerment.<sup>3339</sup> This Initiative's goal is to empower 50 million women by 2025.<sup>3340</sup> They confirmed support for the Academy for Women

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<sup>3331</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

<sup>3332</sup> Remarks at Event Launching the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs Initiative, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/remarks-at-event-launching-the-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs-initiative/>

<sup>3333</sup> World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

<sup>3334</sup> World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

<sup>3335</sup> World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

<sup>3336</sup> World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

<sup>3337</sup> S. 2715: Global Child Thrive Act of 2019, govtrack (Washington D.C.) 29 October 2019. Access date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s2715>

<sup>3338</sup> S. 2715: Global Child Thrive Act of 2019, govtrack (Washington D.C.) 29 October 2019. Access date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/116/s2715>

<sup>3339</sup> Keynote Remarks at the 5th Annual Papua New Guinea Women's Forum, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/keynote-remarks-at-the-5th-annual-papua-new-guinea-womens-forum/>

<sup>3340</sup> Keynote Remarks at the 5th Annual Papua New Guinea Women's Forum, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/keynote-remarks-at-the-5th-annual-papua-new-guinea-womens-forum/>



Entrepreneurs in partnership with Exxon Mobil, Coca-Cola, and the Pasifika Women Network.<sup>3341</sup> Under this program, Papua New Guinean women will also learn key business fundamentals, for betterment of their communities.<sup>3342</sup>

On 11 February 2020, the U.S. Chamber Foundation and the UN's 2020 International Day of Women and Girls in Science, profiled five women who have successfully applied STEM education in their careers.<sup>3343</sup> This was done to empower and inspire girls to pursue interests in STEM by offering them a different and positive view towards a STEM-based future, and also urge other women in STEM to tell their story to the world.<sup>3344</sup>

On 11 August 2020, White House senior advisor Ivanka Trump launched Women's Global Development and Prosperity's Initiative Pillar 3 Action Plans and United States Agency for International Development Fund during a virtual event.<sup>3345</sup> The USD122 million initiative in new programs and partnerships aims to address legal and cultural barriers to women's economic participation throughout the world.<sup>3346</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Government of the United States announced it will provide USD5 million to the Education Cannot Wait organization.<sup>3347</sup> The funding aims to provide humanitarian assistance to "the world's most vulnerable people" during international crisis responses.<sup>3348</sup> Education Cannot Wait is a global fund that aims to enable access to inclusive and quality education for girls and boys affected by global humanitarian crises such as armed conflicts, forced displacements and natural disasters.<sup>3349</sup>

The United States has complied with its commitments to support girls' and women's education and training domestically and abroad by undertaking new initiatives that improve gender equality in

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<sup>3341</sup> Keynote Remarks at the 5th Annual Papua New Guinea Women's Forum, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/keynote-remarks-at-the-5th-annual-papua-new-guinea-womens-forum/>

<sup>3342</sup> Keynote Remarks at the 5th Annual Papua New Guinea Women's Forum, U.S. Department of State (Washington D.C.) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/keynote-remarks-at-the-5th-annual-papua-new-guinea-womens-forum/>

<sup>3343</sup> Light a Spark: Empowering Women and Girls in STEM, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (Washington D.C.) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/light-spark-empowering-women-and-girls-stem>

<sup>3344</sup> Light a Spark: Empowering Women and Girls in STEM, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation (Washington D.C.) 11 February 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.uschamberfoundation.org/event/light-spark-empowering-women-and-girls-stem>

<sup>3345</sup> Ivanka Trump Continues Women Empowerment Agenda Amid Pandemic, Voice of America News.com (Washington DC) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.voanews.com/economy-business/ivanka-trump-continues-women-empowerment-agenda-amid-pandemic>

<sup>3346</sup> Ivanka Trump Continues Women Empowerment Agenda Amid Pandemic, Voice of America News.com (Washington DC) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.voanews.com/economy-business/ivanka-trump-continues-women-empowerment-agenda-amid-pandemic>

<sup>3347</sup> United States Announces an Additional \$5 Million for Education Cannot Wait, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-announces-an-additional-5-million-for-education-cannot-wait/>

<sup>3348</sup> United States Announces an Additional \$5 Million for Education Cannot Wait, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 14 November 2020. <https://www.state.gov/the-united-states-announces-an-additional-5-million-for-education-cannot-wait/>

<sup>3349</sup> World Leaders Pledge a Record US\$216 million to Education Cannot Wait during United Nations General Assembly, Education Cannot Wait (New York) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/unga-2019-pledges/>

education and providing vocational and technical training to women entrepreneurs. However, the US has not taken action to women's improve access to STEM.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Lucia Dhafana-Mabika*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including improved access for women to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

On 10 November 2019, the EU attended a ceremony held in Mandheera, Sahil region, where they committed to support an improved learning environment to the Ministry of Education and Science to expand quality education in Somaliland.<sup>3350</sup> This initiative aims to provide 5,000 girls with expanded quality education.<sup>3351</sup> The EU's commitment goes toward the Somaliland Ministry of Education and Science's Education Sector Strategic Plan, comprising 10 new schools, 65 new classrooms, 30 renovated classrooms and school furniture.<sup>3352</sup>

On 10 December 2019, EU employment ministers endorsed a proposal from Finland's Presidency of the Council of the EU to provide European citizens with free access to a successful online course on basic artificial intelligence.<sup>3353</sup> This project is intended to boost participation of women's STEM education through its high take-up (40 per cent).<sup>3354</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the European Commission released the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.<sup>3355</sup> The document outlines the European Union's key policy objectives regarding gender equality to accomplish by the year 2025.<sup>3356</sup> The key objectives include fighting gender stereotypes and promoting equal participation across different sectors of the economy including STEM.<sup>3357</sup> The document specifically states that the EU will address the gender gap in STEM through the updated

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<sup>3350</sup> School Infrastructure Boost, the European Union Hands over New Schools and Classrooms in Somaliland, European Union External Action (Mogadishu) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland_en)

<sup>3351</sup> School Infrastructure Boost, the European Union Hands over New Schools and Classrooms in Somaliland, European Union External Action (Mogadishu) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland_en)

<sup>3352</sup> School Infrastructure Boost, the European Union Hands over New Schools and Classrooms in Somaliland, European Union External Action (Mogadishu) 10 November 2019. Access Date: 19 December 2019.

[https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/70190/school-infrastructure-boost-european-union-hands-over-new-schools-and-classrooms-somaliland_en)

<sup>3353</sup> EU Presidency Extends Access to Free AI Course across EU, University World News. 13 December 2019 Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20191213090853674>

<sup>3354</sup> EU Presidency Extends Access to Free AI Course across EU, University World News. 13 December 2019 Access Date: 18 December 2019. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20191213090853674>

<sup>3355</sup> Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

<sup>3356</sup> Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

<sup>3357</sup> Gender Equality Strategy." European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

Digital Education Plan and their commitment to ‘Women in Digital’.<sup>3358</sup> The document also states that the EU will address the gender gap in education and training through the Updated Skills Agenda for Europe and Youth Guarantee programs.<sup>3359</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the EU Offices of Plan International, UNICEF and UN Women jointly hosted an online debate to reflect on the recent report “A New Era for Girls.”<sup>3360</sup> The Head of Gender Equality Unit of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation (DG DEVCO) stated its support for education for girls and stated how digitalization and STEM can help girls and women transition from school to work.<sup>3361</sup>

On 26 June 2020, the European Union provided EUR97.2 million of additional funding for programmes in Africa for the creation of job opportunities, public finance management and the access of education for vulnerable groups, especially women and girls.<sup>3362</sup> EUR30 million will go towards providing economic opportunities for women and youth.<sup>3363</sup> The European Union will also provide EUR15 million for increasing children’s access to learning in primary schools, “paying particular attention to vulnerable groups such as forcibly displaced people and refugees, especially girls.”<sup>3364</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the European Commission provided a proposal for a council recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience.<sup>3365</sup> The proposal aims to provide recommendations on the implementation of principle 1 of the European Pillar of Social Rights: “education, training and lifelong learning.”<sup>3366</sup> The recommendations include the promotion of access for women to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university and vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship.<sup>3367</sup>

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<sup>3358</sup> Gender Equality Strategy.” European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

<sup>3359</sup> Gender Equality Strategy.” European Commission - European Commission, March 6, 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/gender-equality-strategy_en)

<sup>3360</sup> Online debate “A new era for girls,” UNICEF (New York) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/eu/stories/online-debate-new-era-girls>

<sup>3361</sup> Online debate “A new era for girls,” UNICEF (New York) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/eu/stories/online-debate-new-era-girls>

<sup>3362</sup> Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: EU mobilises almost €100 million to support the most vulnerable in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1195](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1195)

<sup>3363</sup> Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: EU mobilises almost €100 million to support the most vulnerable in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1195](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1195)

<sup>3364</sup> Emergency Trust Fund for Africa: EU mobilises almost €100 million to support the most vulnerable in the Horn of Africa, European Commission (Brussels) 26 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_1195](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_1195)

<sup>3365</sup> Proposal for a council recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020\\_137](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020_137)

<sup>3366</sup> Proposal for a council recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020\\_137](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020_137)

<sup>3367</sup> Proposal for a council recommendation on vocational education and training for sustainable competitiveness, social fairness and resilience, European Commission (Brussels) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020\\_137](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/procedure/EN/2020_137)

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to work together with developing countries to continue support for girls' and women's education and training, including increased access for women to STEM.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analysts: Julia Orsini and Samantha Moura Novais de Quadros*

## 12. Gender: Labour Market

“We will also address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration*

### Assessment

	Lack of Compliance	Work in Progress	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China		0	
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea	-1		
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.45 (73%)	

### Background

Women continue to remain underrepresented in the labour market globally. According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), women share the majority of care-giving responsibilities in the household and are thus hindered from joining the labour force due to the difficulty in sustaining a balance between home and work life.<sup>3368</sup> In 2019 the ILO reported that half of women worked at paid jobs worldwide, in comparison to four in five men.<sup>3369</sup> It reported that the increased participation of women in the workforce is critical because it can contribute both to human development and economic productivity.<sup>3370</sup>

<sup>3368</sup> Towards a better future for women and work: Voices of women and men, International Labour Organization (ILO), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms\\_713438.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms_713438.pdf)

<sup>3369</sup> Towards a better future for women and work: Voices of women and men, International Labour Organization (ILO), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms\\_713438.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms_713438.pdf)

<sup>3370</sup> Towards a better future for women and work: Voices of women and men, International Labour Organization (ILO), 19 July 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms\\_713438.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---sro-moscow/documents/publication/wcms_713438.pdf)

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the leaders reiterated the commitment they made the 2014 Brisbane Summit to “reduce the gap in labour force participation between men and women by 25 percent by 2025.”<sup>3371</sup> They emphasized the importance of measures to develop women’s access to the economy in order to improve global economic growth.<sup>3372</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 members included the involvement of the Women’s 20 (W20) in order to promote women’s economic empowerment to further contribute to a reduction of gender inequality.<sup>3373</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 members promoted equitable access to the labour-market with a focus on women in industrialization, science, technology and innovation.<sup>3374</sup>

The G20’s action on unpaid care work has been modest due to the persistence of “large gender gaps in the incidence of low-paid work.”<sup>3375</sup> Most measures undertaken by G20 members have involved supporting women in transition from maternity leave to the labour market and addressing harassment in the workplace that prevents women’s participation.<sup>3376</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

The G20 members committed to “address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market.”<sup>3377</sup> As per the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, the commitment seeks to address the gender gap in unpaid care work by 1) recognizing the role of care in society, 2) reducing the burden of unpaid care work and 3) to redistribute the burden of unpaid care work.<sup>3378</sup>

“Address” refers to the attention given to or to deal with action taken to target the gender gap in unpaid care work at the national level.<sup>3379</sup> The three levels in addressing the gender-gap in unpaid care work used here are “recognition, reduction and redistribution” (3Rs strategy) as outlined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation.<sup>3380</sup> “Recognition” means an active effort by the country to draw attention to the role of care in society, while making the contribution of carers visible — this could be verbal, symbolic or tangible efforts to recognize the role of females in unpaid care work.<sup>3381</sup> Recognition also

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<sup>3371</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3372</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3373</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 19 November. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>3374</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 29 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>3375</sup> Women at Work in G20 countries: Progress and policy action (Osaka) 22-24 April 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/osaka/G20-Women-at-Work.pdf>

<sup>3376</sup> Women at Work in G20 countries: Progress and policy action (Osaka) 22-24 April 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/g20/summits/osaka/G20-Women-at-Work.pdf>

<sup>3377</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. [https://g20.org/en/documents/final\\_g20\\_osaka\\_leaders\\_declaration.html](https://g20.org/en/documents/final_g20_osaka_leaders_declaration.html)

<sup>3378</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3379</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, Global Governance Program (Toronto) 6 August 2019. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf)

<sup>3380</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3381</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

involves the collection of data (qualitative and quantitative) on the distribution of the burden of care work among individuals, communities and institutions. Thus, recognition provides the information required for effective “reduction.”<sup>3382</sup>

“Reduction” could include efforts to decrease the time and labour burden imposed on women due to unpaid care work activities and removing obstacles to women’s participation in the labour market through the imposition of policies, government services and new infrastructure.<sup>3383</sup>

“Redistribution” means the reallocation of the burden of unpaid care work across individuals, communities and institutions, in terms of time and resources, through policies and initiatives.<sup>3384</sup> This could be done by encouraging the implementation of economic and labour market policies that uphold ILO principles such as “flexible working arrangements, provision of parental leave, provision of affordable child-care, social security, pension credits, tax allowances and care services for the elderly.”<sup>3385</sup> Thus, the action to “address the gender gap” entails active endeavours to “recognize, reduce and redistribute” the burden imposed on females due to the gender-gap in unpaid care work by a G20 member headed at the national level.

“Unpaid care work” refers to “all unpaid services provided within a household for its members, including care of persons, housework and voluntary community work. These activities are considered work, because a third person could be paid to perform them.”<sup>3386</sup> There is a disproportionate gender gap in unpaid care work in terms of time commitment between males and females all over the world. “Unpaid” refers to the fact that no remuneration is paid to the individual performing the task.<sup>3387</sup> “Care” refers to activities that include the protection of dependents such as children or the elderly, in terms of health care and necessary maintenance.<sup>3388</sup> “Work” refers to physical or mental activity that is costly in terms of time and effort.<sup>3389</sup> In 2019 the OECD reported that men devoted 36 minutes to unpaid care responsibilities on average, of which 36 per cent went into housework and 64 per cent went to shopping, care for household members and travel related to household activities. By comparison, women devoted on average six hours to unpaid care activities, with roughly 85 per cent of this time going towards housework only.<sup>3390</sup>

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<sup>3382</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3383</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3384</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3385</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3386</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3387</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3388</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre. (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3389</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3390</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

Unpaid care work prevents a woman's ability to access employment and education opportunities. Efforts to address unpaid care work will tackle the uneven distribution of care-work, increase women's participation in the labour market, achieve a balance between employment and care work for the woman's dependents, and ensure women are compensated for their responsibilities in the home and in the market.<sup>3391</sup> Further efforts to address unpaid care work involves "expanding the use of social policy measures to encourage more gender balanced childcare, changing stereotypes and norms around caregiving and housework, closing the coverage gaps in early childhood education and care as well as increasing investments in care services, and by closing data gaps on gender differences in work-life balance."<sup>3392</sup>

"Women's participation" refers to the active implementation of efforts to increase the opportunities for women to achieve positions of leadership and management. Efforts to promote empowerment must include commitments to the provision of education, training opportunities, and the formation of policies and practices to create a gender-equal work environment within the national circumstances of the G20 member.<sup>3393</sup> Efforts to target women's empowerment must be quality actions that recognize women's roles in reproduction and equip women with the necessary skills to enter into a workforce that is suited to their needs.<sup>3394</sup>

"Obstacle" refers to barriers that prevent the involvement of women in the labour market. Thus, G20 members should partake in conscious and tangible actions that support the commitment to increase the participation of women in the labour force through an improvement on women's work-life balance.

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must address both the eradication of obstacles and efforts to promote women's participation in two key areas: improvement of work-life balance through investment in public services and the implementation of "family-friendly" workplace policies.<sup>3395</sup> Actions that improve women's work-life balance include improved access to public services for both children, the elderly, and the implementation of after-school care or pre-school educational services.<sup>3396</sup> Efforts to implement "family-friendly" policies include initiatives to increase maternity leave subsidies, increase paternity leave, and eliminate discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes that discourage women's participation within labour markets.<sup>3397</sup> Partial compliance entails the G20 member's ability to take action to address at least one of the targets on either the

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<sup>3391</sup> Gender equality in the G20 — Additional analysis from the time dimension (summary), International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development 22 April 2019. Access Date: 5 March 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS\\_713377/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/docs/WCMS_713377/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3392</sup> Gender equality in the G20 — additional analysis from the time dimension (Tokyo) 22-24 April 2019. Access Date: 6 March 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/publication/wcms\\_713377.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---cabinet/documents/publication/wcms_713377.pdf).

<sup>3393</sup> Quick Guide to What and How: Unpaid Care Work. OECD and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. (Stockholm) Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>

<sup>3394</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre. (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3395</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3396</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3397</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)



improvement of public services directed towards care-work or the implementation of social policies that ensure the workplace is friendly to returning mothers and facilitates a smooth transition to the workplace.<sup>3398</sup> No compliance is the G20 member's failure to meet any the targets within the gender commitment.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not address the gender gap by increasing public services to address unpaid care work and does not implement policies to facilitate a “family-friendly” workplace.
0	G20 member partially addresses the gender gap by either increasing public services to address unpaid care work OR implementing policies to facilitate a “family-friendly” workplace.
+1	G20 member fully addresses the gender gap by increasing public services to address unpaid care work AND implementing policies to facilitate a “family-friendly” workplace.

*Compliance Director: Nicole Vucemilo*

*Lead Analyst: Shamsbir Malik*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market

On 16 July 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) reported that only two out of “10 companies have women as CEOs in Argentina.”<sup>3399</sup> According to the report, the joint initiative implemented by the ILO and UN Women a few years ago “to promote gender equality and women's leadership in the business world” has not been successful in Argentina.<sup>3400</sup> Though the country has reported an increase in financial benefits by more than 15 per cent, women remain underrepresented in managerial and senior positions.<sup>3401</sup> During the compliance period, only a small number of women CEOs were employed by Argentinian companies.<sup>3402</sup>

On 16 December 2019, a report published by the World Economic Forum (Global Gender Gap Report 2020), reported that Argentina's “marketing profession has reached gender parity.”<sup>3403</sup> The report stated that women in Argentina's labour market are more active, comprising 57 per cent of workers. However, despite the equalization in labour participation, gender parity has not been reached in senior roles, professional and technical fields.<sup>3404</sup>

<sup>3398</sup> Unpaid Care Work: The missing link in the analysis of gender gaps in labour outcomes. OECD Development Centre (Paris) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid\\_care\\_work.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf)

<sup>3399</sup> Only 2 Out of 10 Companies have Women as CEOs in Argentina, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS\\_714836/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS_714836/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>3400</sup> Only 2 Out of 10 Companies have Women as CEOs in Argentina, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS\\_714836/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS_714836/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>3401</sup> Only 2 Out of 10 Companies have Women as CEOs in Argentina, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS\\_714836/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS_714836/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>3402</sup> Only 2 Out of 10 Companies have Women as CEOs in Argentina, International Labour Organization (Geneva) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS\\_714836/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/actemp/news/WCMS_714836/lang--en/index.htm).

<sup>3403</sup> Global Gender Gap Report 2020, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf).

<sup>3404</sup> Global Gender Gap Report 2020, World Economic Forum (Cologne) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_GGGR\\_2020.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf).

On 9 December 2019, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a Human Development Report 2019 which found that “in Argentina, 39.5 per cent of parliamentary seats are held by women.”<sup>3405</sup> The report also noted that “female participation in the [Argentinian] labour market is 49.0 per cent compared to 72.8 for men.”<sup>3406</sup> Argentinian women’s empowerment was found to be unequal across all indicators presented in the report, such as reproductive health and family planning, and socioeconomic empowerment.<sup>3407</sup>

On 24 July 2020, a policy brief published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) indicated that Argentina has established income support measures to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on unemployed persons, small contributors and informal workers.<sup>3408</sup> There are currently more countries “where the share of women in informal employment exceeds the share of men in informal employment,” and Argentina is taking steps to alleviate the economic impact that this has on women.<sup>3409</sup> In addition to these emergency measures, Argentina also expressed support for women’s transition from informality to formality, and guaranteeing their employment stability and economic security during the current COVID-19 crisis.<sup>3410</sup> The country recognizes that, “active labour market policies can be particularly helpful in supporting women’s attachment to the labour force.”<sup>3411</sup>

On 10 August 2020, Argentine President Alberto Fernández announced that the country will launch new public works with a gender perspective.<sup>3412</sup> This is one of the various initiatives he is promoting for greater equity and equality “to build an egalitarian society, without discrimination, persecution, without disqualification and where everyone has the same opportunities, whatever their gender.”<sup>3413</sup> The President expressed his desire to “give greater prominence to women, with the aim of building a country with greater equality.”<sup>3414</sup>

Argentina has taken partial action to increase women’s participation in the labour market but has not addressed the gender gap in unpaid care work such as by increasing public services.

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<sup>3405</sup> Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf).

<sup>3406</sup> Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf).

<sup>3407</sup> Inequalities in Human Development in the 21st Century, United Nations Development Programme (New York) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr\\_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/ARG.pdf).

<sup>3408</sup> Policy Brief: A gender-responsive employment recovery: building back fairer. International Labour Organization (Geneva) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_751785.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_751785.pdf)

<sup>3409</sup> Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Picture. International Labour Organization (Geneva) 2018. Access Date: 19 September 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms\\_626831.pdf#page=32&zoom=100,0,0](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---dcomm/documents/publication/wcms_626831.pdf#page=32&zoom=100,0,0)

<sup>3410</sup> Policy Brief: A gender-responsive employment recovery: building back fairer. International Labour Organization (Geneva) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_751785.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_751785.pdf)

<sup>3411</sup> Policy Brief: A gender-responsive employment recovery: building back fairer. International Labour Organization (Geneva) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed\\_emp/documents/publication/wcms\\_751785.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/publication/wcms_751785.pdf)

<sup>3412</sup> Argentine President to launch public works with gender perspective. Cubasi News (Havana) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 10 September 2020. <http://cubasi.cu/en/news/argentine-president-launch-public-works-gender-perspective>

<sup>3413</sup> Argentine President to launch public works with gender perspective. Cubasi News (Havana) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 10 September 2020. <http://cubasi.cu/en/news/argentine-president-launch-public-works-gender-perspective>

<sup>3414</sup> Argentine President to launch public works with gender perspective. Cubasi News (Havana) 10 August 2020. Access Date: 10 September 2020. <http://cubasi.cu/en/news/argentine-president-launch-public-works-gender-perspective>

Thus, Argentina has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Miranda Bocci*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 1 August 2019, Australia announced its financial support of a new online director called "STEM Women" to showcase women working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields, in coordination with the Australian Academy of Science, the Australian Science Media Centre, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research organization.<sup>3415</sup> The database helps connect a diverse range of women and offers them opportunities to progress their careers, such as posting about opportunities to speak at conferences, be part of committees and boards, and be nominated for awards and interviewed in the media.<sup>3416</sup> Users of the database can search for women in STEM based on their expertise, location, and other field searches.<sup>3417</sup>

On 28 August 2019, the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA), a statutory agency under the Government of Australia, in coordination with KPMG, launched the newest instalment of the "She's Price(d)less: the economics of the gender pay gap."<sup>3418</sup> While the report lists factors that underlie the gender pay gap, and to what extent they contribute, the report also outlines information for employers on how to enact change.<sup>3419</sup> The actions fall under the categories of Gender Discrimination, Care, family responsibilities and workplace participation and gender segregation in industries and occupations.<sup>3420</sup> WGEA encouraged organizations to take at least one action from this report by the next Equal Pay Day, which occurs every year in August.<sup>3421</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet announced the launch of the Academy for Enterprising Girls' website. The academy offers Australian girls aged 10 to 18 years the opportunity to develop skills across a variety of design,

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<sup>3415</sup> New database to boost the visibility of women in STEM, the Australian Academy of Science (Canberra) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/new-database-boost-visibility-women-stem>.

<sup>3416</sup> New database to boost the visibility of women in STEM, the Australian Academy of Science (Canberra) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/new-database-boost-visibility-women-stem>.

<sup>3417</sup> New database to boost the visibility of women in STEM, the Australian Academy of Science (Canberra) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.science.org.au/news-and-events/news-and-media-releases/new-database-boost-visibility-women-stem>.

<sup>3418</sup> We know the causes, now it's time for action, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news/we-know-the-causes-now-its-time-for-action>.

<sup>3419</sup> We know the causes, now it's time for action, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news/we-know-the-causes-now-its-time-for-action>.

<sup>3420</sup> We know the causes, now it's time for action, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news/we-know-the-causes-now-its-time-for-action>.

<sup>3421</sup> We know the causes, now it's time for action, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/newsroom/latest-news/we-know-the-causes-now-its-time-for-action>.

STEM, and business disciplines.<sup>3422</sup> The program was initiated in light of the new digital economy and its associated technologies which will transform the future economic environment.<sup>3423</sup> Thus, the academy intends to train Australian girls for the workforce of the future.<sup>3424</sup> The Academy is supported by funding from the Australian government and is delivered through the Future Female Entrepreneurs Program.<sup>3425</sup> The program will also deliver free access to introductory skills on business ideas, innovation, design thinking, and digital skills to girls, regardless of their geographic location.<sup>3426</sup> This series will include a number of in-person workshops and entrepreneurship-learning.<sup>3427</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the WGEA released Australia's most comprehensive Gender Equality Strategy Toolkit (GES Toolkit).<sup>3428</sup> The GES Toolkit allows Australian businesses to measure their progress on workplace gender equality and also provides a blueprint for the implementation and development of gender equality strategies in the workplace.<sup>3429</sup> The Toolkit was developed in response to feedback from businesses and organizations across Australia.<sup>3430</sup>

On 8 March 2020, the Minister for Family and Social Services Anne Ruston announced that they would be dedicating AUD20 million to expand the No Interest Loan Scheme to help women experiencing domestic violence.<sup>3431</sup> Loans of up to AUD2,000 will be available to help women pay for basics such as furniture, consumer goods, car registration, bond and rental payments and debt consolidation.<sup>3432</sup> According to the scheme, 15,000 women every year would have access to the loans,

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<sup>3422</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3423</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3424</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3425</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3426</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3427</sup> Academy for Enterprising Girls' website launch, The Office for Women in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the Australian Government (Adelaide) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/academy-enterprising-girls-website-launch>.

<sup>3428</sup> WGEA releases comprehensive gender equality toolkit for businesses, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/wgea-releases-comprehensive-gender-equality-toolkit-for-businesses>.

<sup>3429</sup> WGEA releases comprehensive gender equality toolkit for businesses, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/wgea-releases-comprehensive-gender-equality-toolkit-for-businesses>.

<sup>3430</sup> WGEA releases comprehensive gender equality toolkit for businesses, The Workplace Gender Equality Agency (Sydney) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.wgea.gov.au/wgea-releases-comprehensive-gender-equality-toolkit-for-businesses>.

<sup>3431</sup> No interest loans supporting women to leave domestic violence. Minister for Family and Social Services (Canberra) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 26 July 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5596>.

<sup>3432</sup> No interest loans supporting women to leave domestic violence. Minister for Family and Social Services (Canberra) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 26 July 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5596>.

and in addition, would be assigned a special caseworker to help them regain control of their finances and build their long-term financial independence.<sup>3433</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for Women announced that AUD150 million would be designated for a domestic violence response package aimed at expanding perpetrator interventions, providing case management for survivors through court processes, producing tech-enabled support services and increasing safe accommodating capacity.<sup>3434</sup> This is an attempt to help frontline families and domestic violence support services across Australia to meet changing needs during COVID-19 and to ensure that support services had the capacity to support women and children during lockdowns and as the country opens up.<sup>3435</sup>

On 8 October 2020, the Australian government released a statement regarding their efforts to support women during COVID-19.<sup>3436</sup> In regards to their 2020-21 budget, the Australian government has five priorities.<sup>3437</sup> First, to rebuild women's participation in the workforce in order to close the gender pay gap.<sup>3438</sup> Second, provide for more flexibility for families to have greater work-life balance.<sup>3439</sup> Third, to support women leaders. Fourth, provide for the diverse needs of women.<sup>3440</sup> Fifth, ensure that women are safe both at work and at home.<sup>3441</sup>

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrea Ho*

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<sup>3433</sup> No interest loans supporting women to leave domestic violence. Minister for Family and Social Services (Canberra) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 26 July 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5596>.

<sup>3434</sup> \$68.25 million for frontline domestic violence support services. Minister for the Department of Social Services (Canberra) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/6261>.

<sup>3435</sup> AUD68.25 million for frontline domestic violence support services. Minister for the Department of Social Services (Canberra) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/6261>.

<sup>3436</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

<sup>3437</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

<sup>3438</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

<sup>3439</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

<sup>3440</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

<sup>3441</sup> 2020 Women's Economic Security Statement, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.pmc.gov.au/news-centre/office-women/2020-women%E2%80%99s-economic-security-statement>

**Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 25 November 2019, Brazil's Family, Women and Human Rights Minister Damares Alves held a news conference published by the Human Rights watch on 10 January 2020 which expressed concerns regarding the lack of action taken by the government to protect women from gender-based violence.<sup>3442</sup> It was noted during the conference that the funding for projects to work vulnerable women had been reduced since January of 2019.<sup>3443</sup>

On 6 December 2019, National Confederation of Apparel Workers (CNTRV) President Francisca Trajano discussed a study that uncovered the extent of sexual harassment by supervisors, and the violence at work places such as in garment factories.<sup>3444</sup> Furthermore, it was noted that women of colour and those who belonged to the LGBTQ community are bullied and Afro-Brazilian women are often assigned the worse services.<sup>3445</sup> As per the new report "Promoting Human Rights and Strengthening Trade Union Action and Equality in the Brazilian Clothing Sector," women in Brazil's textile and shoe factories who took part in a recent study say they have faced violence in some capacity at work such as gender-based violence and harassment to the point where some women associated work with suffering.<sup>3446</sup>

In January 2020, the Organisation of Economic and Cooperation Development released a report on Enabling Women's Economic Development — New Approaches to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries in which Brazil's initiative on unpaid care work is described. Promundo in Brazil is presently working towards "transforming gender stereotypes and changing norms relating to unpaid care work."<sup>3447</sup> They "challenging masculinities and engaging men and boys in domestic activities" in order to remove those social stereotyping.<sup>3448</sup> Furthermore, Brazil aim to address the distribution of household responsibilities for unpaid care will endorse measure such as raising awareness on gender equality and creating programmes working with men to break social norms. Moreover, "sharing of care responsibilities" is promoted via Promundo and is brought to the policy making discussion table in the Secretariat for Women's Policies in Brazil.<sup>3449</sup> Furthermore, Brazilian Secretariat State of Women's Policies will look to further enhance their work in unpaid care work by

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<sup>3442</sup> Brazil's Empty Gestures to Women, Human Rights Watch (New York) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/10/brazils-empty-gestures-women>.

<sup>3443</sup> Brazil's Empty Gestures to Women, Human Rights Watch (New York) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/01/10/brazils-empty-gestures-women>.

<sup>3444</sup> Study: Gender Violence Rife In Brazil Garment Factories, Solidarity Center (Washington) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020 <https://www.solidaritycenter.org/study-gender-violence-rife-in-brazil-garment-factories/>.

<sup>3445</sup> Study: Gender Violence Rife In Brazil Garment Factories. Solidarity Center (Washington) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020 <https://www.solidaritycenter.org/study-gender-violence-rife-in-brazil-garment-factories/>.

<sup>3446</sup> Study: Gender Violence Rife In Brazil Garment Factories, Solidarity Center (Washington) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020 <https://www.solidaritycenter.org/study-gender-violence-rife-in-brazil-garment-factories/>.

<sup>3447</sup> Enabling Women's Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

<sup>3448</sup> Enabling Women's Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

<sup>3449</sup> Enabling Women's Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

“formalizing unpaid domestic work.”<sup>3450</sup> It is noted in the report that “Promundo uses fatherhood to engage men in care” as it is understood to be a “transformative life cycle event for women and men.”<sup>3451</sup> Indirectly, Promundo is tackling the issue of unpaid care work that women are normally held responsible for through engaging men in care work and sharing responsibilities as the report states that their work with National Early Childhood Network extended paternity leave from five to twenty days for companies under Citizen Company program.<sup>3452</sup>

In January 2020, Oxfam released a report called Time to Care — Unpaid and underpaid care work and the global inequality crisis mentions the larger issues that remain unaddressed such as unpaid and underpaid care work for women.<sup>3453</sup> In addition, the report targets the leaders such as President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil and President Donald Trump in the United States who continuously work towards cutting tax cuts, hatred for minorities and promote sexism through their policy making.<sup>3454</sup>

On 2 February 2020, according to Equal Times, the purpose of the “Promoting Human Rights and Strengthening Trade Union Action and Equality in the Brazilian Clothing Sector” report was to create a dialogue between the workers to seek refuge from gender-based violence.<sup>3455</sup> The report led the union members at garment factories in southern Brazilian state of Minas Gerais to negotiate a contract clause to trainings for managers to combat gender-based violence and harassment in workplaces. Moreover, CNRTV president Francisca Trajano states that Unions are being monitored to address gender-based violence and harassment.<sup>3456</sup>

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work and to take action to increase women’s participation in labour market.

Thus, Brazil received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Varisha Naeem*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

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<sup>3450</sup> Enabling Women’s Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

<sup>3451</sup> Enabling Women’s Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

<sup>3452</sup> Enabling Women’s Economic Development New Approach to Unpaid Care Work in Developing Countries, OECD (Paris) 3 June 2014. Access Date: 20 March 2020 <https://www-oecd-ilibrary-org.proxy.library.uu.nl/sites/ec90d1b1-en/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ec90d1b1-en>.

<sup>3453</sup> Time to Care, Oxfam (Oxford) January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620928/bp-time-to-care-inequality-200120-en.pdf>.

<sup>3454</sup> Time to Care, Oxfam (Oxford) January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://oxfamilibrary.openrepository.com/bitstream/handle/10546/620928/bp-time-to-care-inequality-200120-en.pdf>.

<sup>3455</sup> Gender Violence Study in Brazilian Garment Factories Provides A Wake-Up Call To Action, Equal Times (Brussels) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.equaltimes.org/gender-violence-study-in-brazilian#.Xj3TYVJKhQL>.

<sup>3456</sup> Gender Violence Study in Brazilian Garment Factories Provides A Wake-Up Call To Action, Equal Times (Brussels) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.equaltimes.org/gender-violence-study-in-brazilian#.Xj3TYVJKhQL>.

On 5 July 2019, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Labour Patty Hadju announced a payment of CAD2,786,696 to the AfterMeToo, APTN and the Canadian Women's Foundation, as part of Employment and Social Development Canada's Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention Fund.<sup>3457</sup> The fund intends to support the three organizations collaborative project: Roadmap to Future Workplaces.<sup>3458</sup> The project aims to ensure that workplaces for both genders are safe, accountable and transparent environments that are free from violence and sexual harassment.<sup>3459</sup>

On 23 July 2019, Member of Parliament Andy Fillmore has announced on behalf of Minister Hajdu the granting of a CAD2.5 million funds to the Nova Scotia Apprenticeship Agency in support of its Advancing Women in Apprenticeship project.<sup>3460</sup> The project aims to increase the awareness of forty women from diverse communities, including Indigenous females, African Nova Scotians and newcomers on skilled trades and employer-specific training, in addition to supporting women in finding well-paying jobs in construction trades.<sup>3461</sup>

On 7 August 2019, Minister of Small Business and Export Promotion Honourable Mary Ng and as part of the Women Entrepreneurship Strategy, announced an investment of CAD1.7 million in ventureLAB to launch the initiative Tech Undivided.<sup>3462</sup> As stated by Melissa Chee, President and CEO of ventureLAB, "We are excited to launch Tech Undivided. This initiative will support women working in tech by bridging gender and diversity gaps and creating equity in tech, a sector in which women have been historically under-represented."<sup>3463</sup>

On 22 August 2019, Minister Ng announced a federal fund of CAD19 million to women entrepreneurs, academic institutes and non-governmental organizations supporting women entrepreneurs in Ontario province.<sup>3464</sup> The fund will be utilized by the recipients to support and

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<sup>3457</sup> Government of Canada supports training and resources for workplace harassment and violence, Government of Canada (Toronto) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-supports-training-and-resources-for-workplace-harassment-and-violence.html>.

<sup>3458</sup> Government of Canada supports training and resources for workplace harassment and violence, Government of Canada (Toronto) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-supports-training-and-resources-for-workplace-harassment-and-violence.html>.

<sup>3459</sup> Government of Canada supports training and resources for workplace harassment and violence, Government of Canada (Toronto) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-supports-training-and-resources-for-workplace-harassment-and-violence.html>.

<sup>3460</sup> Government of Canada helps women in Atlantic provinces prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the construction trades, Government of Canada (Halifax) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-helps-women-in-atlantic-provinces-prepare-for-highdemand-and-wellpaying-jobs-in-the-construction-trades.html>.

<sup>3461</sup> Government of Canada helps women in Atlantic provinces prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the construction trades, Government of Canada (Halifax) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-helps-women-in-atlantic-provinces-prepare-for-highdemand-and-wellpaying-jobs-in-the-construction-trades.html>.

<sup>3462</sup> Minister Ng announces Women Entrepreneurship Strategy investment, Government of Canada (Markham) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-women-entrepreneurship-strategy-investment.html>.

<sup>3463</sup> Minister Ng announces Women Entrepreneurship Strategy investment, Government of Canada (Markham) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 13 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-women-entrepreneurship-strategy-investment.html>.

<sup>3464</sup> Minister Ng announces Women Entrepreneurship Strategy investment, Government of Canada (Toronto) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-women-entrepreneurship-strategy-investments2.html>.



educate Canadian women, marginalized women with mental disabilities, Indigenous women in rural communities and new immigrants to start up and enhance their own businesses.<sup>3465</sup> In addition, will offer effective solutions for overcoming barriers preventing the participation of women in the workforce.<sup>3466</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister of Justice and Attorney General David Lametti announced that funding of CAD1.7 million will be granted over a five-year period to the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission and the Community Legal Information Association of Prince Edward Island.<sup>3467</sup> As a result of this governmental support, the Prince Edward Island Human Rights Commission will conduct public awareness campaigns directed to both male and female employers, in addition to with training sessions for employers to support identification and prevention of sexual harassment in the workplace.<sup>3468</sup> While the Community Legal Information Association project will provide free legal advice program for victims of sexual harassment in the workplace, in addition to conducting a public legal education campaign for employees and employers.<sup>3469</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Minister of Labour Honourable Filomena Tassi announced the launch of Build a Dream's Career Exploration Expansion project which targets the recruitment of female high school students to jobs in the skilled service industry.<sup>3470</sup> The project received a fund of CAD728,000 through the Skilled Trades Awareness and Readiness program, which intends to promote the participation of all Canadians facing barriers such as women in the service industry.<sup>3471</sup> The program includes career expos, skill development workshops and work experiences. An estimate of 5,000 females are expected to benefit from the program across Canada.<sup>3472</sup> As stated by Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion, "The new Skilled

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<sup>3465</sup> Minister Ng announces Women Entrepreneurship Strategy investment, Government of Canada (Toronto) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-women-entrepreneurship-strategy-investments2.html>.

<sup>3466</sup> Minister Ng announces Women Entrepreneurship Strategy investment, Government of Canada (Toronto) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2019/08/minister-ng-announces-women-entrepreneurship-strategy-investments2.html>.

<sup>3467</sup> Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

<sup>3468</sup> Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

<sup>3469</sup> Government of Canada supports initiatives to address workplace sexual harassment in Prince Edward Island, Government of Canada (Charlottetown) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 23 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-justice/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-supports-initiatives-to-address-workplace-sexual-harassment-in-prince-edward-island.html>.

<sup>3470</sup> Government of Canada helps young women prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the skilled trades, Government of Canada (Windsor) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-helps-young-women-prepare-for-high-demand-and-well-paying-jobs-in-the-skilled-trades.html>.

<sup>3471</sup> Government of Canada helps young women prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the skilled trades, Government of Canada (Windsor) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-helps-young-women-prepare-for-high-demand-and-well-paying-jobs-in-the-skilled-trades.html>.

<sup>3472</sup> Government of Canada helps young women prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the skilled trades, Government of Canada (Windsor) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-helps-young-women-prepare-for-high-demand-and-well-paying-jobs-in-the-skilled-trades.html>.

Trades Awareness and Readiness program will help equip young Canadian women facing barriers to employment with the foundational skills, knowledge and experience they need to get training and start well-paying careers in the skilled trades.<sup>3473</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages announced that the Canadian government will invest CAD8.3 million in the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund to support women entrepreneurs in Western Canada.<sup>3474</sup> The investment will be granted to the Women's Enterprise Initiative (WEI) organizations who will assist women in overcoming barriers and challenges in developing their businesses, through providing loans and after-care services to women entrepreneurs.<sup>3475</sup>

On 17 July 2020, the Canadian Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, Mary Ng announced that the Canadian government will provide a CAD4 million fund through FedDev Ontario to support more than 700 women-led businesses in southern Ontario.<sup>3476</sup> The investment will support women-led businesses with critical costs as they recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and reopen their businesses.<sup>3477</sup> An additional CAD380,000 fund to support women-led businesses in Peterborough, was also announced by Maryam Monsef, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development.<sup>3478</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Canada has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

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<sup>3473</sup> Government of Canada helps young women prepare for high-demand and well-paying jobs in the skilled trades, Government of Canada (Windsor) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 23 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-helps-young-women-prepare-for-high-demand-and-well-paying-jobs-in-the-skilled-trades.html>.

<sup>3474</sup> Government of Canada to invest \$8.3 million in western Canadian women entrepreneurs, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (SASKATOON) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://wesk.ca/press-releases/western-economic-diversification-canada-supports-women-owned-businesses-in-western-canada/>

<sup>3475</sup> Government of Canada to invest \$8.3 million in western Canadian women entrepreneurs, Women Entrepreneurs of Saskatchewan (SASKATOON) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 19 July 2020. <https://wesk.ca/press-releases/western-economic-diversification-canada-supports-women-owned-businesses-in-western-canada/>

<sup>3476</sup> FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario, Government of Canada (Cobourg) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/feddev-ontario-supports-women-led-businesses-to-rebuild-reopen-and-revive-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>3477</sup> FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario, Government of Canada (Cobourg) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/feddev-ontario-supports-women-led-businesses-to-rebuild-reopen-and-revive-in-southern-ontario.html>

<sup>3478</sup> FedDev Ontario supports women-led businesses to rebuild, reopen and revive in southern Ontario, Government of Canada (Cobourg) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-southern-ontario/news/2020/07/feddev-ontario-supports-women-led-businesses-to-rebuild-reopen-and-revive-in-southern-ontario.html>

**China: 0**

China has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 2 July 2019, the State Council of the People's Republic of China announced that it would dedicate further efforts to improving working conditions on the household service industry which has employed tens of millions of rural women.<sup>3479</sup> The State Council released a guideline that encouraged domestic service providers to sign labor contracts with their employees, pay salaries above minimum wage, and offer social security to women working in the household service industry.<sup>3480</sup> Domestic service providers that adhere to these guidelines will qualify for value-added tax deductions, easier loans, and diversified financing channels.<sup>3481</sup> The State Council also intends to set up training programs in colleges, run by home service enterprises, to promote skill development and awareness about these new conditions.<sup>3482</sup> The new program is anticipated to bring drastic changes to home services enterprises, which previously just functioned as "matchmakers," that have not held accountable for work-related incidents or pre-work training.<sup>3483</sup>

On 15 August 2019, the State Council hosted the fifth annual Guizhou women's manual skills and innovative projects competition in Guiyang, the capital of South West China's Guizhou province.<sup>3484</sup> The program has been run by the local government in an attempt to train rural women in embroidery, wax dyeing, and other handicrafts to give them meaningful skills to lift them out of poverty.<sup>3485</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the State Council announced that the China's Spring Bud Project, aimed at helping impoverished girls to finish schooling, has funded and helped over 3.69 million girls in the past 30 years, collected donations worth USD297.5 million and provided assistance to building 1,811 "Spring Bud" schools.<sup>3486</sup>

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<sup>3479</sup> Timely upgrade for household service sector, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy\\_watch/2019/07/02/content\\_281476744187922.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy_watch/2019/07/02/content_281476744187922.html).

<sup>3480</sup> Timely upgrade for household service sector, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy\\_watch/2019/07/02/content\\_281476744187922.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy_watch/2019/07/02/content_281476744187922.html).

<sup>3481</sup> Timely upgrade for household service sector, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy\\_watch/2019/07/02/content\\_281476744187922.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy_watch/2019/07/02/content_281476744187922.html).

<sup>3482</sup> Timely upgrade for household service sector, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy\\_watch/2019/07/02/content\\_281476744187922.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy_watch/2019/07/02/content_281476744187922.html).

<sup>3483</sup> Timely upgrade for household service sector, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy\\_watch/2019/07/02/content\\_281476744187922.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policy_watch/2019/07/02/content_281476744187922.html).

<sup>3484</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Guizhou women's manual skills, innovative products competition held in Guiyang, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201908/15/content\\_WS5d54b03ac6d0c6695ff7eb88.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201908/15/content_WS5d54b03ac6d0c6695ff7eb88.html).

<sup>3485</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Guizhou women's manual skills, innovative products competition held in Guiyang, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201908/15/content\\_WS5d54b03ac6d0c6695ff7eb88.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201908/15/content_WS5d54b03ac6d0c6695ff7eb88.html).

<sup>3486</sup> China's Spring Bud Project helps over 3.69m girls in 30 years, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201910/11/content\\_WS5da04694c6d0bcf8c4c14e4c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201910/11/content_WS5da04694c6d0bcf8c4c14e4c.html).

On 20 November 2019, the State Council announced that rural women in Guangxi were being trained in embroidery as part of a workshop in Rongshui Miao, an autonomous county in South China's Guangxi Zhuang's autonomous region.<sup>3487</sup> The project involves a “night schooling program, run by the local government, with the aim of helping rural women learn embroidery to support their skills development and their ability to get out of poverty.”<sup>3488</sup>

On 4 January 2020, the State Council announced that the Shangdang township's flower industry was reducing the unemployment rates for women in Shangdang.<sup>3489</sup> Promoting the flower industry has been part of Shangdang's industrial restructuring program.<sup>3490</sup> The flower industry, in particular, has helped many women from its rural areas gain employment.<sup>3491</sup>

On 7 January 2020, the State Council announced the signing of a State Council decree to publish a regulation which would guarantee payments of wages to rural migrant workers, with an emphasis on female migrant workers, to go into effect on 1 May 2020.<sup>3492</sup> To ensure that rural migrant workers get their wages on time, and in full, this regulation has clauses identifying the responsibilities of employers and related government departments for regulating wage payments.<sup>3493</sup> In particular, the Women's Federation will be given a role in receiving reports and complaints and ensuring obligations are met according to the regulation.<sup>3494</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the State Council announced that 28,000 female medical workers who were sent to aid epidemic control efforts in Hubei would be recognized through satisfying for personal or special items.<sup>3495</sup> This is an attempt by the government to recognize women working in the

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<sup>3487</sup> Rural women in Guangxi trained in embroidery, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201911/20/content\\_WS5dd49b1dc6d0bcf8c4c1777e.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201911/20/content_WS5dd49b1dc6d0bcf8c4c1777e.html).

<sup>3488</sup> Rural women in Guangxi trained in embroidery, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201911/20/content\\_WS5dd49b1dc6d0bcf8c4c1777e.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/201911/20/content_WS5dd49b1dc6d0bcf8c4c1777e.html).

<sup>3489</sup> Shangdang township's burgeoning flower industry helps women out of unemployment, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content\\_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html).

<sup>3490</sup> Shangdang township's burgeoning flower industry helps women out of unemployment, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content\\_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html).

<sup>3491</sup> Shangdang township's burgeoning flower industry helps women out of unemployment, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 4 January 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content\\_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/photos/202001/04/content_WS5e0ffc75c6d0cee5d284b202.html).

<sup>3492</sup> Government releases regulation on guaranteeing wages for migrant workers, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content\\_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html).

<sup>3493</sup> Government releases regulation on guaranteeing wages for migrant workers, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content\\_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html).

<sup>3494</sup> Government releases regulation on guaranteeing wages for migrant workers, The State Council The People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 7 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content\\_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202001/07/content_WS5e148c74c6d0cee5d284b565.html).

<sup>3495</sup> About 28 000 female medical workers go to help Hubei, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202003/09/content\\_WS5e658fa7c6d0c201c2cbdced.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202003/09/content_WS5e658fa7c6d0c201c2cbdced.html).

healthcare, medical, and science and technology industry who have played a significant role in treating patients.<sup>3496</sup>

On 25 July 2020, the State Council announced that new programs would be created with the purpose of supporting pregnant and breastfeeding women.<sup>3497</sup> This program would be followed by further steps to support breastfeeding and working mothers, including increasing the number of childcare facilities in public spaces and workplaces and ensuring that the rights of nursing mothers are protected.<sup>3498</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the State Council shared a number of gender-inclusive responses to COVID-19, including measures to send epidemic control supplies to women and other vulnerable populations.<sup>3499</sup> Huang Xiaowei, Deputy Director of the National Working Committee on Children and Women under the State Council and Vice-President of the All-China Women's Federation, stated that unity and cooperation are the best weapons to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3500</sup>

On 1 October 2020, President Xi Jinping spoke at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, and stressed the need to promote gender equality and assist front-line female medical workers during the pandemic.<sup>3501</sup> First, there is a need to provide “protection of women's and girls' rights and interests in an important position in public health and the resumption of work and production plans, especially to broaden the employment channels for women and combat violations of women's rights.”<sup>3502</sup> This includes providing services to pregnant women, children, the disabled, and other disadvantaged groups.<sup>3503</sup> Second, there must be an elevation of gender equality, and to “eliminate prejudice, discrimination, and violence against women.”<sup>3504</sup> Third, there is a need to “remove obstacles, create an environment, mobilize the enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of women to the greatest extent, and enhance their

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<sup>3496</sup> About 28 000 female medical workers go to help Hubei, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202003/09/content\\_WS5e658fa7c6d0c201c2cbdced.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202003/09/content_WS5e658fa7c6d0c201c2cbdced.html).

<sup>3497</sup> China to further promote breastfeeding, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/25/content\\_WS5f1b9838c6d029c1c2636a9b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/25/content_WS5f1b9838c6d029c1c2636a9b.html).

<sup>3498</sup> China to further promote breastfeeding, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/25/content\\_WS5f1b9838c6d029c1c2636a9b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202007/25/content_WS5f1b9838c6d029c1c2636a9b.html).

<sup>3499</sup> China shares gender-inclusive responses to COVID-19, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202008/06/content\\_WS5f2bb0c6c6d029c1c26375a5.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202008/06/content_WS5f2bb0c6c6d029c1c26375a5.html).

<sup>3500</sup> China shares gender-inclusive responses to COVID-19, The State Council of the People's Republic of China (Xinhua) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202008/06/content\\_WS5f2bb0c6c6d029c1c26375a5.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/videos/202008/06/content_WS5f2bb0c6c6d029c1c26375a5.html).

<sup>3501</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

<sup>3502</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

<sup>3503</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

<sup>3504</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

sense of gain, happiness, and security.”<sup>3505</sup> Last, there will be an increased investment to eliminate violence, discrimination, poverty and other factors to improve gender equality.<sup>3506</sup>

China has partially complied with its commitment by effectively recognizing and redistribute the gender gap in unpaid care work, but not taking any concrete measures to reallocate the burden in terms of time and labour on certain individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, China receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Andrea Ho*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 13 July 2019, UN Women announced that the “global gathering” for gender equality through Generation Equality Forum initiated by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico with the aid of civil society will take place in Mexico City, Mexico, from 7-8 May 2020 and will close in Paris from 7-10 July of 2020.<sup>3507</sup> The purpose of the forum is going to be a universal public conversation to call for immediate action on accountability on gender equality as well as to celebrate and empower women.<sup>3508</sup>

From 24-26 August 2019, during the G7 gathering in Biarritz, President Emmanuel Macron prioritized gender equality, and adapting the Biarritz Partnership that was launched by the Heads of State and Government at the Biarritz Summit.<sup>3509</sup> This initiative was presented in the effort to create an international coalition to fight gender inequality.<sup>3510</sup> This coalition draws on the report with recommendations of the G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council submitted to the leaders at the Summit.<sup>3511</sup> The Gender Equality Advisory Council’s members and mandates were renewed by President Macron in 2019.<sup>3512</sup>

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<sup>3505</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

<sup>3506</sup> Speech by Xi Jinping at the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing World Conference on Women, The State Council on the Government of China (Beijing) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content\\_5548949.htm](http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-10/01/content_5548949.htm)

<sup>3507</sup> The Generation Equality Forum — Save The Date! UN Women (Geneva) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/announcer-generation-equality-forum>.

<sup>3508</sup> The Generation Equality Forum — Save The Date! UN Women (Geneva) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/announcer-generation-equality-forum>.

<sup>3509</sup> The Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/>.

<sup>3510</sup> The Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/>.

<sup>3511</sup> The Biarritz Partnership for Gender Equality, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/>.

<sup>3512</sup> Publication Of The Report Of The G7 Gender Equality Advisory Council, Elysee (Paris) 20 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/en/g7/2019/08/20/publication-of-the-report-of-the-g7-gender-equality-advisory-council>.

On 26 August 2019, from the Biarritz Summit in France, the Biarritz Partnership on Gender Equality demonstrates that the economic situation of women remains imbalanced to that of men in France.<sup>3513</sup> There are many cases where women face “economic violence” as per the definition in the Istanbul Convention.<sup>3514</sup> The number of women who depend on their spouses is large who do not even have access to their bank accounts and means of payments.<sup>3515</sup> In addition, fewer women find themselves earning a best paying position in the labour market.<sup>3516</sup> The law will include a measure to promote female entrepreneurship and small and medium-sized enterprises headed by women through Bpifrance and the Agence des Participations de l’Etat (inspired by the Women-Owned Small Businesses/Small Business Act in the United States) as well as promoting the Business Angels and financing schemes for female-owned businesses.<sup>3517</sup> This law will bring about solid change in favour of gender equality in France as well as the economic development of our country.<sup>3518</sup>

On 19 November 2019, in an article published in the Financial Times, Marlene Schiappa, France’s secretary of state for gender equality, wrote that France has opted for a law on the economic emancipation of women.<sup>3519</sup> The French government will propose defining economic violence in law as per the suggestions of Council of Europe’s Istanbul Convention.<sup>3520</sup> The plan involves imposing an employer-quotas to increase the female participation in the workforce and giving women the opportunity to work in banks and become entrepreneurs.<sup>3521</sup>

On 25 November 2019, the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs released a press statement on women’s rights on the UN’s International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.<sup>3522</sup>

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<sup>3513</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3514</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3515</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3516</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3517</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3518</sup> France, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/french-g7-presidency/the-biarritz-partnership-for-gender-equality/article/france>.

<sup>3519</sup> French Minister: Gender Equality Must Be at The Heart Of Everything, Financial Times (London) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/9de2ce6e-09a7-11ea-bb52-34c8d9dc6d84>.

<sup>3520</sup> French Minister: Gender Equality Must Be at The Heart Of Everything, Financial Times (London) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/9de2ce6e-09a7-11ea-bb52-34c8d9dc6d84>.

<sup>3521</sup> French Minister: Gender Equality Must Be at The Heart Of Everything, Financial Times (London) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/9de2ce6e-09a7-11ea-bb52-34c8d9dc6d84>.

<sup>3522</sup> UN — International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-25-nov-2019>.

France remains committed to eliminating all forms of gender-based inequalities towards women.<sup>3523</sup> President Macron prioritizes women rights which was reflected in his G7 presidency alongside his presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe through his commitment on working with France's European and international partners to make the campaign Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence known globally.<sup>3524</sup> France also announced EUR6.2 million in financial support for the Global Survivors Fund, and to help women who work with victims of this terror as well as aid survivors of violence to get reintegrated into ordinary life.<sup>3525</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Varisha Naeem*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On February 2020, Franziska Giffey, Germany's family minister, has called for women to be better represented on the directory boards of large companies.<sup>3526</sup> Minister Giffey wants to require large German enterprises to have women on their directory boards, with legislation potentially coming as soon as this year.<sup>3527</sup>

On 7 March 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel stressed that enforcing equality remains a major issue in Germany, noting the gap between working men and women.<sup>3528</sup> Chancellor Merkel intends to create

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<sup>3523</sup> UN — International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-25-nov-2019>.

<sup>3524</sup> UN — International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-25-nov-2019>.

<sup>3525</sup> UN — International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women, France Diplomatie — Ministry For Europe And Foreign Affairs (Paris) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/human-rights/women-s-rights/article/un-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-25-nov-2019>.

<sup>3526</sup> German minister calls for female quota in boardrooms, end to "boys" club, DW News (Berlin) 17 February 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-minister-calls-for-female-quota-in-boardrooms-end-to-boys-club/a-52403735>.

<sup>3527</sup> German minister calls for female quota in boardrooms, end to "boys" club, DW News (Berlin) 17 February 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-minister-calls-for-female-quota-in-boardrooms-end-to-boys-club/a-52403735>.

<sup>3528</sup> Merkel: Germany must do more on gender equality, DW News (Berlin) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/merkel-germany-must-do-more-on-gender-equality/a-52677474>.



more inclusive policies involved with homemaking, support, care and also the upbringing of children that will allow equal participation of women in the working.<sup>3529</sup>

In June 2019, the government implemented the initiative “No clichés” (Klischeefrei).<sup>3530</sup> It is a national cooperation project which promotes non-clichéd vocational and study choices, free from restrictive gender stereotypes.<sup>3531</sup> It offers support to all involved in the vocational choice process to enable them to help girls and boys make vocational choices that match their strengths — free from gender stereotypes.<sup>3532</sup> The initiative’s service center advises the network of partners who are committed to providing non-clichéd vocational guidance within and outside their institutions and offers practice-oriented material, background information and success stories on gender-sensitive vocational guidance.<sup>3533</sup>

In July 2019, the amount granted for children increased, and children under six receive EUR150, for children aged six to 11 EUR202 and for children aged 12 to 17 EUR272.<sup>3534</sup> In addition to child benefit, single parents thus receive financial assistance for their children in the amount of the minimum maintenance payment stipulated under civil law.<sup>3535</sup>

In August 2019, through the implementation and evaluate the Good Childcare Act (Gute-KiTa-Gesetz), the government is providing the federal states (Länder) with EUR5.5 billion in investments until 2022 to improve the quality of child daycare at a local level.<sup>3536</sup> This includes employing more personnel, extending opening hours and reducing fees (with free daycare for children from low-income families).<sup>3537</sup>

On 2 July 2020, German governmental representatives joined representatives from Mexico, South Africa and Spain to discuss economic gender equality at a meeting hosted by Swedish Minister for

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<sup>3529</sup> Merkel: Germany must do more on gender equality, DW News (Berlin) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/merkel-germany-must-do-more-on-gender-equality/a-52677474>.

<sup>3530</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3531</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3532</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3533</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3534</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3535</sup> Report of the Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth (Berlin) August 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. [https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing\\_20/Germany.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/Gender/Beijing_20/Germany.pdf).

<sup>3536</sup> Annex for the Biarritz Partnership on Gender Equality, Elysee (Paris) 26 August 2019. Access Date 27 March 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/b4bbf5d5cabbb20b6b20b77f735df145419f4c27.pdf>.

<sup>3537</sup> Annex for the Biarritz Partnership on Gender Equality, Elysee.fr (Paris) 26 August 2019. Access Date 27 March 2020. <https://www.elysee.fr/admin/upload/default/0001/05/b4bbf5d5cabbb20b6b20b77f735df145419f4c27.pdf>.

Foreign Affairs, Ann Linde.<sup>3538</sup> Ministers at the meeting recognized the low pay and undervaluation of labour in work traditionally held by women, and highlighted the need for action in achieving economic gender equality.<sup>3539</sup> Key messages from this meeting included the need for greater recognition and equal distribution of unpaid care work, as well as the need to provide more accessible work, education, training and social protection systems for women and girls.<sup>3540</sup>

On 6 July 2020, Germany, Slovenia and Portugal released the “Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality.”<sup>3541</sup> The declaration outlines the commitments of the three Council of the EU Presidency Countries towards advancing gender equality over the next 18 months.<sup>3542</sup> It committed all three countries to the implementation of the European Commission’s new Gender Equality Strategy 2020–2025.<sup>3543</sup> The declaration recognized the undervaluation of women’s work in society, the under-representation of women and girls in ICT and STEM studies, leadership positions and the labour market.<sup>3544</sup> The declaration also highlights the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and the ways in which the pandemic has worsened gender inequalities, namely through deepening gender pay gaps, the unequal division of unpaid care and domestic work, barriers on women’s participation in the labour market, and an overall reduction in women’s economic independence.<sup>3545</sup> Key goals include advancing equal labour market participation and more equally distributed unpaid and paid care work between women and men.<sup>3546</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Germany released “Towards a Stronger Future,” the country’s first national gender equality strategy.<sup>3547</sup> The strategy establishes nine gender equality goals, which are to be realized through the creation of legislation in each of Germany’s federal ministries.<sup>3548</sup> Key objectives include increasing the number of women on executive boards in private companies by expanding on a current gender quota law that requires 105 companies to have a supervisory board that is made up of

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<sup>3538</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3539</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3540</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3541</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3542</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3543</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3544</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3545</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3546</sup> Trio Presidency Declaration on Gender Equality (Berlin) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/blob/158154/252af172d6d4b456d05743156db36a36/20200706-trio-declaration-data.pdf>

<sup>3547</sup> Towards a Stronger Future. (Berlin) 08 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.gleichstellungsstrategie.de/rgs-en/downloads>

<sup>3548</sup> Germany unveils first national strategy for gender equality (Berlin) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.dw.com/en/gender-equality-germany/a-54086234>

at least 30% women.<sup>3549</sup> This strategy aims to expand that rule to 600 companies.<sup>3550</sup> Other key objectives include the reduction of the pay and pension gap between men and women.<sup>3551</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitments and has adopted a “recognition, reduction and redistribution” approach in which it has made an active effort to draw attention to the role of care in society, as well as the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on women’s participation in the labour force. Germany has made efforts to reduce barriers in women’s labour participation, facilitating a ‘family friendly’ workplace, by partnering with the private sector to increase the number of women in leadership positions and creating digital skill building programs for women.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Aleena Ahmed and Elizabeth Wai*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 5 July 2019, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) announced its support for women entrepreneurship through programs such as the Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency which involve bringing credit systems to underfunded women, and the Stand-up India and the Self Help Group (SHG) movement.<sup>3552</sup> In particular, the WCD intends to expand the SHG interest subvention programme to all districts.<sup>3553</sup> Every woman who can be verified as a SHG member with a Jan Dha Bank account will be allowed an overdraft of INR1000.<sup>3554</sup>

On 12 July 2019, WCD announced a new Nirbhaya Fund dedicated to enhancing the security and safety of women.<sup>3555</sup> The scheme includes a number of initiatives such as the “One Stop Centres” for women suffering from violence and the “Women Helpline.”<sup>3556</sup> While the One Stop Centre aims to provide a range of services to women suffering from violence, including security services, medical support, legal counselling, psycho-social counselling, and temporary shelter, the “Women Helpline”

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<sup>3549</sup> Germany unveils first national strategy for gender equality (Berlin) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/gender-equality-germany/a-54086234>

<sup>3550</sup> Germany unveils first national strategy for gender equality (Berlin) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/gender-equality-germany/a-54086234>

<sup>3551</sup> Germany unveils first national strategy for gender equality (Berlin) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/gender-equality-germany/a-54086234>

<sup>3552</sup> Press Release: Ease of living promotes women led development, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1577447>.

<sup>3553</sup> Press Release: Ease of living promotes women led development, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1577447>.

<sup>3554</sup> Press Release: Ease of living promotes women led development, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1577447>.

<sup>3555</sup> Press Release: Women Helplines, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578566>.

<sup>3556</sup> Press Release: Women Helplines, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578566>.

intends to provide 24-hour emergency services and information to women suffering from violence by linking them to the appropriate services.<sup>3557</sup>

On 21 November 2019, the Government of India enhanced the honorarium of Anganwadi Workers from INR3,000 to 4,500 a month.<sup>3558</sup> Anganwadi are centers that provide basic healthcare support to mothers and children in rural India; their employees are mainly women.<sup>3559</sup> These women offer their services voluntarily and on a part time basis. Their work often went unrecognized and unpaid, before they were offered honorariums.<sup>3560</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the WCD announced the implementation of the National Creche Scheme in the states and united territories to provide day care facilities to children (aged six months to six years) of working mothers.<sup>3561</sup> This scheme will assess the need for additional creches in each state/united territory to determine how many more are needed.<sup>3562</sup> Guidelines concerning the establishment and maintenance of creches, particularly to ensure a consistent level of hygiene, first-aid, breastfeeding, and nutrition have been established.<sup>3563</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the WCD announced the success of the online complaint management system for sexual harassment electronic-Box (She-Box) for registering complaints related to sexual harassment at workplace by women, including by government and private employees.<sup>3564</sup> So far 203 cases have been dealt with, including cases in the central government, state government, and private sector.<sup>3565</sup>

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<sup>3557</sup> Press Release: Women Helplines, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1578566>.

<sup>3558</sup> Press release: Increase in Salary of Workers and Helpers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1592815>.

<sup>3559</sup> Press release: Increase in Salary of Workers and Helpers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1592815>.

<sup>3560</sup> Press release: Increase in Salary of Workers and Helpers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1592815>

<sup>3561</sup> Press release: Creches and Day Care Centres, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594223>.

<sup>3562</sup> Press release: Creches and Day Care Centres, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594223>.

<sup>3563</sup> Press release: Creches and Day Care Centres, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594223>.

<sup>3564</sup> Press release: SHE-box, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594218>.

<sup>3565</sup> Press release: SHE-box, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594218>.

On 7 February 2020, the WCD announced that it would provide other monetary incentives to Anganwadi workers, aside from the honorarium announced in November 2019.<sup>3566</sup> It also reaffirmed its support for the honorarium program.<sup>3567</sup>

On 14 February 2020, the WCD announced a partnership with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship aimed at enabling and empowering women to engage in advanced skill development and related industries.<sup>3568</sup> In particular, the WCD hopes to boost women's participation in high-productivity sectors and ensure that grassroots organizations are aware of the government's initiatives to close gaps in gender parity.<sup>3569</sup> For example, the WCD names the Indian start-up industry as having very few females and that the artificial intelligence sector should aim to have a higher proportion of women in its workforce.<sup>3570</sup>

On 29 February 2020, the WCD announced 11 chairs named after prominent Indian women scientists together with several "Women in Science" programs aimed at recognizing, inspiring, encouraging, and giving recognition to women in the fields of Science and Technology.<sup>3571</sup> The 11 chairs have been instituted in the fields of research including Agriculture, Biotechnology, Phytomedicine, Biochemistry, Medicine, Social Sciences, Earth Science and Meteorology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Physics and Fundamental Research.<sup>3572</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the WCD, in coordination with various ministries of India and the State Governments, announced a number of programs being implemented to benefit the welfare of single women, widows with no support, as well as underprivileged young women.<sup>3573</sup> The schemes relevant to women's increased participation in the labour market are as follows: while the Indira Gandhi National Widow Pension Scheme aims to implement a pension program for widows and elderly below the

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<sup>3566</sup> Press release: Honorarium for Anganwadi workers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602394>.

<sup>3567</sup> Press release: Honorarium for Anganwadi workers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602394>.

<sup>3568</sup> Press release: WCD Ministry partners with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for Skilling of Women & Children, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603208>.

<sup>3569</sup> Press release: WCD Ministry partners with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for Skilling of Women & Children, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603208>.

<sup>3570</sup> Press release: WCD Ministry partners with Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for Skilling of Women & Children, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603208>.

<sup>3571</sup> Press release: Government announces 11 chairs in the name of eminent women in various fields of Science & Technology, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604744>.

<sup>3572</sup> Press release: Government announces 11 chairs in the name of eminent women in various fields of Science & Technology, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604744>.

<sup>3573</sup> Press release: Schemes for Welfare of Women, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605557>.

poverty line, the Mahila Shakti Kendra Scheme aims to empower rural women through community participation and so they may feel comfortable engaging in various career opportunities.<sup>3574</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the WCD announced that the Pradhan Mantri Vandana Yojana maternity benefit scheme has been delivered to 855,731 beneficiaries, each receiving INR5,000 under the scheme.<sup>3575</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Ministry of Rural Development announced that lump sums of INR500 would be given to women who were Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), or the National Program for Financial Inclusion account holders for the month of April in light of COVID-19.<sup>3576</sup> This is aimed to help women who may be at risk of losing employment or struggling to support their families.<sup>3577</sup>

On 6 June 2020, the WCD announced a task force to examine issues related to women's advancement.<sup>3578</sup> In particular, the task force is responsible for suggesting measures for promoting higher education among women and suitable legislative instruments to achieve that goal.<sup>3579</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Ministry of Defense issued a formal Government Sanction Letter which grants Permanent Commission to Women Officers in the Indian Army.<sup>3580</sup> The Ministry of Defense announced that this grant would allow women to hold more significant roles within the Indian army and is an example of the Indian army's commitment to provide equal opportunities to all personnel including women officers.<sup>3581</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the Ministry of Tourism signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Travel Agents Association of India and the FICCI Ladies Organization to promote tourism as a

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<sup>3574</sup> Press release: Schemes for Welfare of Women, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605557>.

<sup>3575</sup> Press release: Maternity Benefit Disbursed to 1.36 Core Beneficiaries under PMMVY, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Children Development (New Delhi) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1606295>.

<sup>3576</sup> Press release: Direct cash transfer to women PMJDY account holders under PM Garib Kalyan Package for the month of April 2020 in the light of COVID-19 pandemic, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Rural Development (New Delhi) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1610606>.

<sup>3577</sup> Press release: Direct cash transfer to women PMJDY account holders under PM Garib Kalyan Package for the month of April 2020 in the light of COVID-19 pandemic, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Rural Development (New Delhi) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1610606>.

<sup>3578</sup> Press release: Task force set up to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 6 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629832>.

<sup>3579</sup> Press release: Task force set up to examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering MMR, improvement of nutritional levels and related issues, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Information Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 06 June 2020. Access date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629832>.

<sup>3580</sup> Press release: Grant of Permanent Commission to Women Officers in Indian Army, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Defence (New Delhi) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640638>.

<sup>3581</sup> Press release: Grant of Permanent Commission to Women Officers in Indian Army, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Defence (New Delhi) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640638>.

sustainable livelihood model for women's economic empowerment.<sup>3582</sup> Through this initiative, women would gain training in the areas of hospitality skills, a more flexible work-life balance and greater opportunities for entrepreneurship with significantly lower capital in the tourism industry.<sup>3583</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the WCD announced enhanced honorariums for Anganwadi Workers, since they are considered front-line workers who have been facilitating essential services during the COVID19 pandemic.<sup>3584</sup> In addition to honoraria, the States/UTs are also giving monetary incentives to these workers and other personal protective equipment and other insurance schemes.<sup>3585</sup> The cohort was trained by female mentors from various fields and 16 different states across India.

On 23 September 2020, the WCD announced several measures to promote entrepreneurship among women. The first is a project known as the "Economic Empowerment of Women Entrepreneurs and Startups by Women", which aims to create incubation and acceleration programs for women micro entrepreneurs to start businesses and scale up existing enterprises.<sup>3586</sup> The second measure is known as the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, a micro-credit linked subsidy program aimed at generating self-employment opportunities through establishing micro-enterprises outside the agricultural center.<sup>3587</sup> The third program is known as the Women Entrepreneurship Platform, which provides free services for women entrepreneurs.<sup>3588</sup> Finally, the last program is a skill development program run by the Rural Self Employment and Training Institutes, which enables female trainees to take bank credits and start her own micro-enterprise.<sup>3589</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the WCD announced a number of programs to promote the safety and empowerment of women and children across the country, including a universal women helpline which is aimed at providing 24 hours emergency response to women affected by violence in public

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<sup>3582</sup> Press release: Ministry of Tourism virtually signs an MoU with Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) & FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model for women's economic empowerment, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Tourism (New Delhi) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647610>.

<sup>3583</sup> Press release: Ministry of Tourism virtually signs an MoU with Travel Agents Association of India (TAAI) & FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) to promote tourism as sustainable livelihood model for women's economic empowerment, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Tourism (New Delhi) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647610>.

<sup>3584</sup> Press release: Increase in Salaries of Anganwadi Workers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1655616>.

<sup>3585</sup> Press release: Increase in Salaries of Anganwadi Workers, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1655616>.

<sup>3586</sup> Press release: Women Entrepreneurship, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658320>.

<sup>3587</sup> Press release: Women Entrepreneurship, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658320>.

<sup>3588</sup> Press release: Women Entrepreneurship, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658320>.

<sup>3589</sup> Press release: Women Entrepreneurship, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658320>.

and private spaces, by linking them with the appropriate authority such as the Police, One Stop Centre, Hospital and Legal services.<sup>3590</sup>

India has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrea Ho*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 26 December 2019, the provincial government of Bangka Belitung Islands and UN Women announced a partnership to support women's entrepreneurship and economic empowerment in Bangka Belitung Islands.<sup>3591</sup> The goal is to provide women with equal economic opportunities.<sup>3592</sup>

On 5 February 2020, Minister of National Development Planning Suharso Monoarfa announced that the Indonesian government will fight to end child marriage.<sup>3593</sup> The goal is to decrease the child marriage prevalence rate from 11.2 per cent to 8.74 per cent.<sup>3594</sup>

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to by taking steps to effectively recognize and reduce the gender gap in unpaid care work, but not taking any concrete measures to reallocate the burden in terms of time and labour on certain individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dania Asabi Ogie*

### **Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 16 December 2019, Italy aims to raise the quota of women within corporate boards to 40 per cent.<sup>3595</sup> This raise in the so-called "pink tax" stems from a budget measure implemented in 2011.<sup>3596</sup>

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<sup>3590</sup> Press Release: Development of Women and Children, Press Information Bureau Government of India Ministry of Women and Child Development (New Delhi) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658302>.

<sup>3591</sup> UN Women to Support Provincial Initiatives on Women's Economic Empowerment in Bangka Belitung Island, UN Women (Pangkal Pinang) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/01/un-women-to-support-provincial-initiatives-on-wee-in-bangka-belitung-islands>.

<sup>3592</sup> UN Women to Support Provincial Initiatives on Women's Economic Empowerment in Bangka Belitung Island, UN Women (Pangkal Pinang) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/news-and-events/stories/2020/01/un-women-to-support-provincial-initiatives-on-wee-in-bangka-belitung-islands>.

<sup>3593</sup> Government of Indonesia Commits to End Child Marriage, UNFPA (Jakarta) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/government-indonesia-commits-end-child-marriage>.

<sup>3594</sup> Government of Indonesia Commits to End Child Marriage, UNFPA (Jakarta) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://indonesia.unfpa.org/en/news/government-indonesia-commits-end-child-marriage>.



On 13 January 2020, in a report published by the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO), the experts highlight a lack of protection for women against violence within Italy.<sup>3597</sup> GREVIO “has urged the Italian authorities to enact more measures to protect women from violence.”<sup>3598</sup> However, this has yielded no visible change within the society. The report acknowledges Italy’s use of the “Istanbul Convention,” but raises a number of concerns with any actuality of changes.

Italy has attempted to redistribute the burden of unpaid care work through some measures but has not undertaken any other efforts to reduce or recognize the gender gap in unpaid care work.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Evangeline Procopondis*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 15 January 2020, Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi announced that he will be taking a two-week paternity leave after his first child is born in order to change the mindsets of working fathers in the country.<sup>3599</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan hosted the sixth annual World Assembly for Women.<sup>3600</sup> The goal of the conference is to have discussions on various women’s issues including women’s empowerment.<sup>3601</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the Worker Cooperatives Act was submitted to Japan’s House of Representatives by 15 members of parliament.<sup>3602</sup> The goal of this act is to create job opportunities for those who are socially disadvantaged and to respond to social needs such as eldercare and childcare.<sup>3603</sup>

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<sup>3595</sup> Italy aims to boost quotas for women on corporate boards, Reuters (Milan) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-women/italy-aims-to-boost-quotas-for-women-on-corporate-boards-idUSL8N28Q49S>.

<sup>3596</sup> Italy aims to boost quotas for women on corporate boards, Reuters (Milan) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/italy-women/italy-aims-to-boost-quotas-for-women-on-corporate-boards-idUSL8N28Q49S>.

<sup>3597</sup> Italy: more measures needed to protect women from violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 13 January 2020. Access Date 8 February 2020. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/italy-more-measures-needed-to-protect-women-from-violence>.

<sup>3598</sup> Italy: more measures needed to protect women from violence, Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 13 January 2020. Access Date 8 February 2020. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/-/italy-more-measures-needed-to-protect-women-from-violence>.

<sup>3599</sup> A Japanese Politician Is Taking Paternity Leave. It’s a Big Deal, The New York Times (Tokyo) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/15/world/asia/japan-koizumi-paternity-leave.html>.

<sup>3600</sup> Government of Japan hosts the 6th annual World Assembly for Women in Tokyo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000940.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000940.html).

<sup>3601</sup> Government of Japan hosts the 6th annual World Assembly for Women in Tokyo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 31 January 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr\\_ha/page22e\\_000940.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/fp/hr_ha/page22e_000940.html).

<sup>3602</sup> A worker cooperatives bill has been submitted to the House of Representatives in Japan, the International Labour Organization (Japan) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS\\_748306/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS_748306/lang--en/index.htm)

Japan has partially complied with its commitment by effectively recognizing the gender gap in unpaid care work, but not taking any concrete measures to redistribute or reallocate the burden in terms of time and labour on certain individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dania Asabi Ogie*

### **Korea: -1**

Korea has not complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 30 June 2019, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development reported that Korea's gender gap in employment rate is smaller among "men and women with less than upper secondary levels."<sup>3604</sup> Also, Korea's female workers remain "consistently under-represented in top positions — [where] they face what is often called the 'glass ceiling.'"<sup>3605</sup> Additionally, women tend to hold different types of jobs than their male counterparts.<sup>3606</sup> For example, women find it difficult "to reach managerial positions in Korea, where they make up only around 12-13 per cent of managers."<sup>3607</sup>

In October 2019, a report published by the International Monetary Fund, found that unpaid domestic work accounts for 10 per cent of gross domestic product in Korea.<sup>3608</sup> According to this report, "unpaid work declines with the level of economic development of [the] country and female labour participation rises."<sup>3609</sup> Female labour participation has the potential for reducing unpaid work and boosting Korea's economy, "as economies get richer, ... unpaid work by men increases, allowing

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<sup>3603</sup> A worker cooperatives bill has been submitted to the House of Representatives in Japan, the International Labour Organization (Japan) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020.

[https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS\\_748306/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/cooperatives/news/WCMS_748306/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>3604</sup> Gender Differences in Employment, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF\\_1\\_6\\_Gender\\_differences\\_in\\_employment\\_outcomes.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF_1_6_Gender_differences_in_employment_outcomes.pdf).

<sup>3605</sup> Gender Differences in Employment, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF\\_1\\_6\\_Gender\\_differences\\_in\\_employment\\_outcomes.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF_1_6_Gender_differences_in_employment_outcomes.pdf).

<sup>3606</sup> Gender Differences in Employment, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF\\_1\\_6\\_Gender\\_differences\\_in\\_employment\\_outcomes.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF_1_6_Gender_differences_in_employment_outcomes.pdf).

<sup>3607</sup> Gender Differences in Employment, Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

[https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF\\_1\\_6\\_Gender\\_differences\\_in\\_employment\\_outcomes.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/els/soc/LMF_1_6_Gender_differences_in_employment_outcomes.pdf).

<sup>3608</sup> IMF Working Paper — Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Work: Stronger Policies to Support Gender Equality, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2019/10/15/Reducing-and-Redistributing-Unpaid-Work-Stronger-Policies-to-Support-Gender-Equality-48688>.

<sup>3609</sup> IMF Working Paper — Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Work: Stronger Policies to Support Gender Equality, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020.

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2019/10/15/Reducing-and-Redistributing-Unpaid-Work-Stronger-Policies-to-Support-Gender-Equality-48688>.

for a redistribution of unpaid work by gender and an increase in paid work by women.”<sup>3610</sup> The report concludes that “the decline in unpaid work as countries become richer is explained by reductions in domestic chores.”<sup>3611</sup>

In October 2019, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published a further report in which it recommends that Korea institute labour market reforms in order to support higher female labour force participation.<sup>3612</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the Korean Ministry of Gender Equality announced “a first-ever government forum on equality, on the theme of the gendered impacts of the novel coronavirus pandemic.”<sup>3613</sup> The ministry said the forum aims to discuss and highlight the different ways the crisis is affecting women and men.<sup>3614</sup> The forum was launched to mark the anniversaries of two United Nations milestones -- the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, a declaration on how to achieve equality for girls and women, and the 2000 security council resolution on women, peace and security.<sup>3615</sup>

Korea has not complied with its commitment of addressing the gender gap in unpaid domestic work and has not taken action to increase women’s participation in the labour market in any of the three mentioned areas of recognition, reduction and redistribution.

Thus, Korea has received a score of -1.

*Analyst: Miranda Bocci*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 13 July 2019, UN Women announced that the “global gathering” for gender equality through Generation Equality Forum initiated by UN Women and co-chaired by France and Mexico with the aid of civil society will take place in Mexico City, Mexico from 7-8 May 2020 and will close in Paris from 7 to 10 July of 2020.<sup>3616</sup> The purpose of the Forum is going to be a universal public

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<sup>3610</sup> IMF Working Paper — Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Work: Stronger Policies to Support Gender Equality, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2019/10/15/Reducing-and-Redistributing-Unpaid-Work-Stronger-Policies-to-Support-Gender-Equality-48688>.

<sup>3611</sup> IMF Working Paper — Reducing and Redistributing Unpaid Work: Stronger Policies to Support Gender Equality, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2019/10/15/Reducing-and-Redistributing-Unpaid-Work-Stronger-Policies-to-Support-Gender-Equality-48688>.

<sup>3612</sup> G-20 Report on Strong, Sustainable, Balanced, and Inclusive Growth, International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C.) October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.imf.org/external/np/g20/pdf/2019/101119b.pdf>.

<sup>3613</sup> Government forum to discuss pandemic’s toll on women. Korea Herald (Seoul) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 15 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200901000879>

<sup>3614</sup> Government forum to discuss pandemic’s toll on women. Korea Herald (Seoul) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 15 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200901000879>

<sup>3615</sup> Government forum to discuss pandemic’s toll on women. Korea Herald (Seoul) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 15 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200901000879>

<sup>3616</sup> The Generation Equality Forum — Save The Date! UN Women (Geneva) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/announcer-generation-equality-forum>.

conversation to call for immediate action on accountability on gender equality as well as to celebrate and empower women.<sup>3617</sup>

On 9 January 2020, Mexico announced its first Mexico's Feminist Foreign Policy (FFP).<sup>3618</sup> This is in line with Mexico's ambitious multilateral policy and reinforces the Mexican government's commitment to the agenda of gender equality and non-discrimination.<sup>3619</sup> Adding to other international examples, Mexico's FFP will seek to apply its focus on human rights and gender equality across all sectors and all areas of Mexico's foreign policy; to make visible the contribution of women to foreign policy and global actions, and to maintain its consistency and congruence by doing this both within and outside of the Foreign Ministry.<sup>3620</sup>

On 15 January 2020, in a news article by Devex, it was stated that the Feminist Foreign Policy strategy will be implemented over the 2020-2024 period and has five principles: a foreign policy with a gender perspective and feminist agenda abroad; a foreign ministry with gender parity; a foreign ministry that is free of violence and safe for all; visible equality of women in the foreign ministry; and feminism within all areas of the foreign ministry.<sup>3621</sup>

On 14 January 2020, in an article in Foreign Policy, Lyric Thompson wrote that Mexico created a working definition of Feminism for government policy that "prioritizes gender equality and enshrines the human rights of women and other traditionally marginalized groups, allocates significant resources to achieve that vision and seeks through its implementation to disrupt patriarchal and male-dominated power structures across all of its levers of influence (aid, trade, defense and diplomacy), informed by the voices of feminist activists, groups and movements."<sup>3622</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Sistema Nacional para la Igualdad entre Mujeres y Hombres established the Proigualdad 2020-2024 program under Mexico's 2019-2024 National Development Plan.<sup>3623</sup> This program will promote gender equality in compliance with The Programa del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres y Hombres; strengthen the links between women and unions, governments, civil society and the private sector; provide authorities with guidance on gender equality; support systems that seek to eliminate violence against women; introduce cultural changes that support women's rights and development; ensure the representation of women within leadership roles; and facilitate the acknowledgement of women's roles as caretakers and the redistribution of care and domestic work.<sup>3624</sup>

On 2 July 2020, Mexican governmental representatives joined representatives from Germany, South Africa and Spain to discuss economic gender equality at a meeting hosted by Swedish Minister for

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<sup>3617</sup> The Generation Equality Forum — Save The Date! UN Women (Geneva) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2019/7/announcer-generation-equality-forum>.

<sup>3618</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>.

<sup>3619</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy, Gobierno de México (Mexico City) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>.

<sup>3620</sup> Mexico Adopts Feminist Foreign Policy, Gobierno de México (Mexico) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sre/prensa/mexico-adopts-feminist-foreign-policy?idiom=en>.

<sup>3621</sup> Mexico releases Latin America's first feminist foreign policy, Devex (Washington D.C.) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.devex.com/news/mexico-releases-latin-america-s-first-feminist-foreign-policy-96363>.

<sup>3622</sup> Mexican Diplomacy has gone feminist, Lyric Thompson, Foreign Policy (Washington D.C.) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/01/14/mexican-diplomacy-feminist-foreign-policy/>.

<sup>3623</sup> Programa Institucional Entidades No Sectorizadas Derivado del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2019-2024, Programa Institucional 2020-2014 del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres y Hombres (Mexico City) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5595138&fecha=17/06/2020](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5595138&fecha=17/06/2020)

<sup>3624</sup> Programa Institucional Entidades No Sectorizadas Derivado del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2019-2024, Programa Institucional 2020-2014 del Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres y Hombres (Mexico City) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. [http://dof.gob.mx/nota\\_detalle.php?codigo=5595138&fecha=17/06/2020](http://dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5595138&fecha=17/06/2020)

Foreign Affairs, Ann Linde.<sup>3625</sup> Ministers at the meeting recognized the low pay or undervaluation of occupations that are predominately held by women and highlighted the need for action in achieving economic gender equality.<sup>3626</sup> Key messages from this meeting included the need for greater recognition and equal distribution of unpaid care work, as well as the need to provide more accessible work, education, training and social protection systems for women and girls.<sup>3627</sup>

Mexico has recognized and drew attention to the gender gap. However, Mexico remains the same in other aspects and did not take concrete action for paternity or maternity leave, reducing violence against women, and it did not have engage with the private sector to promote women's economic empowerment. It has not implemented policies that would redistribute the burden of unpaid care work such as flexible working arrangements, provision of parental leave, provision of affordable childcare and social security.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Aleena Ahmed and Elizabeth Wai*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 18 July 2019, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection issued an order shortening the list of professions in which women's employment is restricted, including employment in certain occupations in the chemical industry, metallurgy, oil production, coal mining, manufacturing of insulation, and some others owing to the harmful effects of certain compounds on women's reproductive health.<sup>3628</sup> The goal is to increase women's participation in more forms of industry, reflecting technological advancements have allowed women to work in the professions previously deemed dangerous.<sup>3629</sup>

On 16 December 2019, the World Economic Forum released its annual Global Gender Gap Index ranking, tracking the equality of men and women in 153 countries in four categories: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, health and survival and political

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<sup>3625</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition. The Government of Sweden (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3626</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition. The Government of Sweden (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3627</sup> Sweden, South Africa, Mexico, Spain and Germany discussed economic gender equality and engagement in a global coalition. The Government of Sweden (Stockholm) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020.

<https://www.government.se/statements/2020/07/sweden-south-africa-mexico-spain-and-germany-discussed-economic-gender-equality-and-engagement-in-a-global-coalition/>

<sup>3628</sup> Russian Federation: Government Shortens List of Professions in Which Women's Employment Is Restricted, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/russian-federation-government-shortens-list-of-professions-in-which-womens-employment-is-restricted/>.

<sup>3629</sup> Russian Federation: Government Shortens List of Professions in Which Women's Employment Is Restricted, Library of Congress (Washington D.C.) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.loc.gov/law/foreign-news/article/russian-federation-government-shortens-list-of-professions-in-which-womens-employment-is-restricted/>.

empowerment. Russia fell six spots on the index, from 75th last year to 81st this year, placing between El Salvador and Ethiopia.<sup>3630</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection approved additional payment benefits to families with children. Russian citizens with children aged 3 to 16 will be eligible to receive a one-time payment of RUB10,000 per child starting 1 June 2020. President Vladimir Putin stated that the goal of the additional payment benefits are to “take more decisions on supporting people” and create more infrastructure supporting women such as equitable financial services to facilitate women’s transition to the formal economy.

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to by taking steps to effectively recognize the gender gap in unpaid care work, but not taking any concrete measures to reduce or reallocate the burden in terms of time and labour on certain individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Derron Yu*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women’s participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 1 August 2019, the Saudi Council of Ministers led by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud adopted amendments to the Labor Law, clearly stating that an employee can be either a male or female.<sup>3631</sup> In addition, to prohibiting employers from dismissing females or threatening them with job release during periods of maternity or pregnancy leaves and periods of illness resulting from childbirth or pregnancy.<sup>3632</sup> The new amendments also included protection against discrimination in employment, preventing employers from asking female employees to obtain approval from their male guardian before they are able to be employed.<sup>3633</sup> As stated in the amended articles of the law “citizens are equal with respect to the right to work without any discrimination on the basis of sex, disability, age, or any other form of discrimination.”<sup>3634</sup>

On 3 October 2019, Minister of Labor and Social Development Ahmed Al-Rajhi passed a set of regulations that intends to protect employers including women from harassment in their workplace environment.<sup>3635</sup> As stated by Khalid Abal-Khail, spokesman of the Ministry of Labor and Social

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<sup>3630</sup> Russia’s Gender Equality Rating Drops — WEF Report, Moscow Times (Moscow) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/12/17/russias-gender-equality-rating-drops-wef-report-a68643>.

<sup>3631</sup> The Council of Minister decides to approve amendments to the travel and civil status documents system, work and social security system, Um Al Qura Newspaper (Riyadh) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.uqn.gov.sa/articles/1564686389678699500/>.

<sup>3632</sup> The Council of Minister decides to approve amendments to the travel and civil status documents system, work and social security system, Um Al Qura Newspaper (Riyadh) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.uqn.gov.sa/articles/1564686389678699500/>.

<sup>3633</sup> The Council of Minister decides to approve amendments to the travel and civil status documents system, work and social security system, Um Al Qura Newspaper (Riyadh) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.uqn.gov.sa/articles/1564686389678699500/>.

<sup>3634</sup> The Council of Minister decides to approve amendments to the travel and civil status documents system, work and social security system, Um Al Qura Newspaper (Riyadh) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 27 February 2020. <https://www.uqn.gov.sa/articles/1564686389678699500/>.

<sup>3635</sup> Workplace anti-harassment rules to be in force from Oct. 20, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/578936/SAUDI-ARABIA/Workplace-anti-harassment-rules-to-be-in-force-from-Oct-20>.

Development “the minister’s decision aims to eliminate all forms of harassment and protect individuals from words, acts, implicit behaviour or innuendo of a sexual nature by one individual against another targeting that individual’s body, modesty or personal life.”<sup>3636</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the Saudi government-owned Human Resources Development Fund (Hadaf) signed an agreement with Careem car-hire service company to increase the number of female employees benefiting from the “Wusool” transportation programme and to expand the program’s coverage to new regions and provinces in the Kingdom.<sup>3637</sup> Wusool programme covers up to 80 per cent of the costs of transporting working women to and from their workplace with the aim of empowering women, supporting their job stability, and increasing their participation in the labour market, through reducing the burden of transportation costs for Saudi women working in the private sector.<sup>3638</sup>

On 6 January 2020, Hadaf announced an amendment to the entry requirements and support mechanism in the “Qurrah” program which aims to contribute to women’s empowerment and stability in the labour market, through providing daycare and nurseries for children of female employees in different provinces of the Kingdom.<sup>3639</sup> Under the new amendment, the support children will cover up to two children until the age of six years old, instead of the age of four. The fund will conduct a partial contribution to the costs of the daycare per child as follows: SAR800 for the first year, SAR600 during the second year, SAR500 and SAR400 for the third and fourth years respectively.<sup>3640</sup> The Qurrah program aims to promote the percentage of Saudi females working in the private sector and contribute to the stability of Saudi women in their workplace.

On 24 January 2020, the Saudi Minister of Civil Service Sulaiman Al Hamdan announced that his Ministry achieved the 2020 target of reducing the gender gap between men and women in service jobs to 37 per cent.<sup>3641</sup> Al Hamdan also confirmed that “the creation of the Women’s Empowerment Agency, the appointment of the first female undersecretary in the Ministry of Civil Service, and the appointment of female directors at the ministry’s branches in the provinces of Assir, Jazan and Qassim for the first time in the history of the Ministry.”<sup>3642</sup>

On 8 March 2020, Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdullah Bin Amer Al-Swaha launched the Women Empowerment Program, which aims to promote women’s participation in the workforce, through increasing remarking job opportunities for females and establishing a digital system that develops and attracts employees skills to perform digital transformation.<sup>3643</sup> The program

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<sup>3636</sup> Workplace anti-harassment rules to be in force from Oct. 20, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 31 January 2020. <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/578936/SAUDI-ARABIA/Workplace-anti-harassment-rules-to-be-in-force-from-Oct-20>.

<sup>3637</sup> Hadaf agrees with Careem on increasing the number of beneficiaries of the Wusool programme, Sabq online newspaper (Riyadh) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 25 January 2020. <https://mobile.sabq.org/LP73HS>.

<sup>3638</sup> Hadaf agrees with Careem on increasing the number of beneficiaries of the Wusool programme, Sabq online newspaper (Riyadh) 12 December 2019. Access Date: 25 January 2020. <https://mobile.sabq.org/LP73HS>.

<sup>3639</sup> Government program supports child care costs for 2,514 Saudi female employees in the private sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2019589>.

<sup>3640</sup> Government program supports child care costs for 2,514 Saudi female employees in the private sector, Saudi Press Agency (Riyadh) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 26 January 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/2019589>.

<sup>3641</sup> Minister of Civil Service: Employing citizens by contracting system, Okaz Newspaper (Riyadh) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.okaz.com.sa/news/local/2006927>.

<sup>3642</sup> Minister of Civil Service: Employing citizens by contracting system, Okaz Newspaper (Riyadh) 24 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.okaz.com.sa/news/local/2006927>.

<sup>3643</sup> Women’s important role in development stressed, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/590672/SAUDI-ARABIA/Womens-important-role-in-development-stressed>.

includes the enhancing of females digital skills, awareness level, entrepreneurship and innovation.<sup>3644</sup> In addition to promoting the employment of Saudi females in the sector, and empowering them in positions of leadership, through conducting employment programs.<sup>3645</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the Head of the Human Rights Division at the Saudi mission to the United Nations (Geneva) Mishaal Al-Balawi, announced that the Saudi 2030 Vision aims to provide job opportunities to more than one million Saudi women within the next ten years.<sup>3646</sup> Al-Balawi recognized the significant role played by women in strengthening the Kingdom's economy.<sup>3647</sup> He also introduced the Anti-Harassment Law and the Law of Protection from Abuse which prevents violence and harassment against women at their workplaces.<sup>3648</sup>

On 21 July 2020, Women 20 and the state-owned petroleum and natural gas company, Aramco, announced a partnership to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment.<sup>3649</sup> The partnership aims to promote inclusive decision-making and labor inclusion for women in the workplace, particularly in the field of science and technology (STEM), where women face inadequate representation.<sup>3650</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the Saudi Council of Ministers led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud approved amending the labor system issued by the Royal Decree No. (M / 51) dated 8/23/1426 AH.<sup>3651</sup> Articles 149 and 150 concerning the prohibition of women's employment in some night shifts jobs or some dangerous occupations was removed. Article 186, previously prohibiting the employment of women in mining sites was amended to allow all genders above 18 years of age to be employed in mining sites.<sup>3652</sup>

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

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<sup>3644</sup> Women's important role in development stressed, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/590672/SAUDI-ARABIA/Womens-important-role-in-development-stressed>.

<sup>3645</sup> Women's important role in development stressed, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 10 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://saudigazette.com.sa/article/590672/SAUDI-ARABIA/Womens-important-role-in-development-stressed>.

<sup>3646</sup> One million jobs for Saudi women by 2030, Saudi Gazette (Geneva) 07 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/595203>

<sup>3647</sup> One million jobs for Saudi women by 2030, Saudi Gazette (Geneva) 07 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/595203>

<sup>3648</sup> One million jobs for Saudi women by 2030, Saudi Gazette (Geneva) 07 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://saudigazette.com.sa/article/595203>

<sup>3649</sup> Women 20 and Aramco announce ground-breaking partnership to promote gender equality, Zawya (Riyadh) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/press-releases/story/Women\\_20\\_and\\_Aramco\\_announce\\_groundbreaking\\_partnership\\_to\\_promote\\_gender\\_equalitynbspnbsp-ZAWYA20200721090518/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/press-releases/story/Women_20_and_Aramco_announce_groundbreaking_partnership_to_promote_gender_equalitynbspnbsp-ZAWYA20200721090518/)

<sup>3650</sup> Women 20 and Aramco announce ground-breaking partnership to promote gender equality, Zawya (Riyadh) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. [https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/press-releases/story/Women\\_20\\_and\\_Aramco\\_announce\\_groundbreaking\\_partnership\\_to\\_promote\\_gender\\_equalitynbspnbsp-ZAWYA20200721090518/](https://www.zawya.com/mena/en/press-releases/story/Women_20_and_Aramco_announce_groundbreaking_partnership_to_promote_gender_equalitynbspnbsp-ZAWYA20200721090518/)

<sup>3651</sup> The Council of Ministers approves the amendment of the labor system, Al Riyadh Newspaper (Neom) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <http://www.alriyadh.com/1838829>

<sup>3652</sup> The Council of Ministers approves the amendment of the labor system, Al Riyadh Newspaper (Neom) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <http://www.alriyadh.com/1838829>



Thus, Saudi Arabia has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 1 August 2019, Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane announced the inaugural Women's Month Program to reflect on South Africa's "success in achieving gender equality and mainstreaming the gender agenda across all sectors," including entrepreneurship and gender roles.<sup>3653</sup> Minister Maite also strongly encouraged the businesses to highlight gender inequalities to ensure that discrimination within the workplace could be eradicated.<sup>3654</sup>

On 7 August 2019, the Chair of South Africa's Multi-Party Women's Caucus (MPWC) appealed to all ministries to create gender responsive and inclusive budgets to take account the needs of women within the society.<sup>3655</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the Commission for Employment Equity (CEE) condemned workplace violence and harassment, citing it as a "human rights violation...[and] a threat to equal opportunities."<sup>3656</sup> The CEE also cites the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in their adoption of the ILO Violence and Harassment Convention.<sup>3657</sup> The CEE is in the process of creating a "Code of Good Practice," to eliminate workplace violence and harassment for all workers in South Africa.<sup>3658</sup>

On 27 September 2019, South African public servants marched to fight gender-based violence and femicide — to bring together all parts of South African society to stop the violence and killing of

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<sup>3653</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane launches Women's Month, South African Government (Cape Town) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/department-women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-launches-women's-month-1-aug-2019-0000>.

<sup>3654</sup> Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane launches Women's Month, South African Government (Cape Town) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/department-women-youth-and-persons-disabilities-launches-women's-month-1-aug-2019-0000>.

<sup>3655</sup> Parliament on gender-responsive planning and budgeting framework, South African Government (Cape Town) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/gender-responsive-7-aug-2019-0000>.

<sup>3656</sup> Employment and Labour on eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/elimination-and-prevention-violence-19-sep-2019-0000>.

<sup>3657</sup> Employment and Labour on eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/elimination-and-prevention-violence-19-sep-2019-0000>.

<sup>3658</sup> Employment and Labour on eliminating violence and harassment in the workplace, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/elimination-and-prevention-violence-19-sep-2019-0000>.

women and children.<sup>3659</sup> This march highlights the dedication of South African public servants to the cause of fighting violence against women and children in the face of inequality.<sup>3660</sup>

On 9 December 2019, the Gauteng Provincial Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Community Safety "commended the ... community's for successful convictions made in ... cases of gender-based violence."<sup>3661</sup> The commendation highlights six successful conviction cases bringing justice to those affected by gender-based violence within the community, demonstrating a step towards equality.<sup>3662</sup>

South Africa has succeeded in recognizing the gender gap in unpaid care work but has not reduced or redistributed the burden of unpaid care work across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Evangeline Procopoudis*

### **Turkey: +1**

Tukey has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

In July 2019, the government of Turkey presented its second Voluntary National Review.<sup>3663</sup> The report provides a review of Turkey's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals and the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) into a national agenda.<sup>3664</sup> The following policies will be implemented in the upcoming years to achieve SDG 5.<sup>3665</sup> They include mainstreaming the principle of equal opportunities for women and men into the in-service training programs of public institutions and organizations, structuring the budgets of all institutions and organisations in a way that they will support equal opportunities for women and men, mainstreaming activities and studies for raising awareness to prevent all forms of violence against women, revising the current legislation for women and girls in the context of prevention of early and forced marriages, generating detailed data on early and forced marriages at regional and local levels, mainstreaming and increasing the efficiency of activities

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<sup>3659</sup> Communications on arrangements for public service march against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Cape Town) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-communications-arrangements-public-service-march-against-gender-based-violence>.

<sup>3660</sup> Communications on arrangements for public service march against gender-based violence and femicide, South African Government (Cape Town) 26 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/government-communications-arrangements-public-service-march-against-gender-based-violence>.

<sup>3661</sup> Gauteng Legislature on cases of gender-based violence, South African Government (Cape Town) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/committee-commends-department's-strides-fighting-gbv-6-dec-2019-0000>.

<sup>3662</sup> Gauteng Legislature on cases of gender-based violence, South African Government (Cape Town) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/committee-commends-department's-strides-fighting-gbv-6-dec-2019-0000>.

<sup>3663</sup> Strong Ground towards common goals — Turkey presents its second VNR report in New York, United Nations Development Program (New York) 15 July 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/07/tuerkiye--kueresel-hedefler-yolundaki-ilerlemesini-ozetleyen-ra.html>.

<sup>3664</sup> Strong Ground towards common goals — Turkey presents its second VNR report in New York, United Nations Development Program (New York) 15 July 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020. <https://www.tr.undp.org/content/turkey/en/home/presscenter/articles/2019/07/tuerkiye--kueresel-hedefler-yolundaki-ilerlemesini-ozetleyen-ra.html>.

<sup>3665</sup> Tukey Sustainable Development Goals 2nd VNR 2019, Strong Ground towards Common Goals, United Nations (New York) July 2019. Access Date; 27 March 2020. [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey\\_VNR\\_110719.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey_VNR_110719.pdf).

conducted to facilitate equal participation of women in politics and decision-making processes and ensuring that women may benefit from the opportunities and rights on an equal basis and stepping up work to strengthen women's cooperatives.<sup>3666</sup>

In September 2019, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services has set goals in the women's section of the 11th Development Plan (2019-2023).<sup>3667</sup> The main objective is to prevent all kinds of discrimination against women and to ensure that women benefit and strengthen equal rights and opportunities in all spheres of social life.<sup>3668</sup> Turkey aims to strengthen the economic status of women and aim to reach these targets by the end of 2023, the female labour force participation rate will be 38.5 per cent, the female employment rate will be 34 per cent, the ratio of women among self-employed will be 20 per cent and the proportion of women in employers will be 10 per cent.<sup>3669</sup>

In September 2019, during the 2019 Annual Presidential Program, the Ministry of Family, Labour and social services efforts are underway to expand the areas of economic, social and cultural activities in order to strengthen the social position of women in Turkey and for them to benefit from equal opportunities, to ensure greater participation in the development process, business life and decision-making mechanisms and to prevent violence against women.<sup>3670</sup> Additionally, the ministry includes the following measures; in order to increase female employment in the labor market, women's opportunities for vocational training and skill development will be strengthened, especially in the areas of technology production such as coding and software.<sup>3671</sup> To increase women's participation in the labor force and employment, practices that link work and family life will be implemented in order to facilitate access to care services.<sup>3672</sup> The ministry aspire for the, "active participation of women in economic, social, cultural life and all levels of decision-making mechanisms in a way to strengthen equality of opportunity between men and women in the field of rights will be encouraged, especially starting from the local."<sup>3673</sup> To do so, the policy includes following measures: researches will be carried out to strengthen women's economic and social life, projects will be conducted, trainings will be organized.<sup>3674</sup> In order to improve women's economic activities, women entrepreneurs will be provided with consultancy and guidance services in business development processes and women will be given priority in support in this field.<sup>3675</sup> Mechanisms aiming to improve the economic activities of women in digital environments such as websites, portals and applications will be established and training programs and seminars will be organized to ensure the empowerment of women

<sup>3666</sup> Turkey Sustainable Development Goals 2nd VNR 2019, Strong Ground towards Common Goals, United Nations (New York) July 2019. Access Date: 27 March 2020.

[https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey\\_VNR\\_110719.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey_VNR_110719.pdf).

<sup>3667</sup> Women in Turkey, Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3668</sup> Women in Turkey, Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3669</sup> Women in Turkey, Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3670</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3671</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3672</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3673</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3674</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3675</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019.

Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

entrepreneurs in e-commerce.<sup>3676</sup> Support mechanisms for increasing women entrepreneurship in rural areas will be provided.<sup>3677</sup>

In September 2019, the issue of combating violence against women is included.<sup>3678</sup> In the 11th Development Plan covering the years 2019-2023, the policies above are in place to organize education to eliminate negative attitudes and that reinforce domestic violence and to increase the capacity of preventive and preventive services in order to prevent forced marriages.<sup>3679</sup>

In September 2019, the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services provided 7,739 of women staying at women's shelters with awareness training; 745 of them were provided with literacy courses, and 8,258 participated in social, artistic and sporting activities.<sup>3680</sup> The Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundation, with the help of municipalities and foundations, provided economic support to 2,280 women.<sup>3681</sup> As of September 2019, 5,042 women residing in women's shelters benefited from vocational courses and 915 women were employed, 4,489 children who stayed with their mothers in women's shelters benefited from nurseries and children's clubs and legal support was provided to 3,728 women receiving service from a women's shelter.<sup>3682</sup>

As of September 2019, Law No. 5510 on Social Security and General Health Insurance will regulate "maternal status" and "maternal insurance."<sup>3683</sup> Furthermore, "the Regulation on the Employment Conditions of Female Employees in Night Shifts" adopted with regard to the Law No. 6331 on Occupational Health and Safety regulates the conditions of female employees in the night shifts who are in pregnancy or maternity.<sup>3684</sup>

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Aleena Ahmed*

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<sup>3676</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3677</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3678</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3679</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3680</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3681</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3682</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3683</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

<sup>3684</sup> Women in Turkey. Ministry of family, Labour and Social Services, Government of Turkey (Ankara) September 2019. Access Date: 28 March 2020 <https://ailevecalisma.gov.tr/media/17801/women-in-turkey-eyluel2019sonu.pdf>.

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 3 July 2019, Minister for Women and Equalities Penny Mordaunt announced the launch of the gender equality roadmap for change, which aims to financially empower women from elementary to retirement age.<sup>3685</sup> The new initiative intends to re-evaluate the enforcement of equal pay legislation.<sup>3686</sup> In addition to ensuring women are safe in the workplace and are protected from sexual harassment through launching a consultation to ensure legislation is up to scratch laws on third party harassment are clarified and strengthened.<sup>3687</sup>

On 22 July 2019, Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst announced that new mothers and pregnant employed women will be eligible to receive legal protection against redundancy for a period up to two years, with an additional extension of six months upon their return to work.<sup>3688</sup> The new initiative will also cover employees who are on adoption or shared parental leave. Which will ensure that new parents including mothers are in working environments that are free of discrimination.<sup>3689</sup>

On 2 September 2019, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Amber Rudd announced the launch of a new online job search scheme that intends to support parents in creating a balance between work and their parentage duties.<sup>3690</sup> Rudd stated that the new initiative will make it easier for parents to find work.<sup>3691</sup> Using technology, the new website will include more than 50,000 job adverts with flexible job schedules.<sup>3692</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the UK government announced a GBP3.5 million aid to support female entrepreneurs in Africa, assisting them with overcoming barriers to starting businesses and promoting their connection with international markets.<sup>3693</sup> The British initiative and through joint

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<sup>3685</sup> Penny Mordaunt sets out plan to empower UK women, Gov.UK (London) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/penny-mordaunt-sets-out-plan-to-empower-uk-women>.

<sup>3686</sup> Penny Mordaunt sets out plan to empower UK women, Gov.UK (London) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/penny-mordaunt-sets-out-plan-to-empower-uk-women>.

<sup>3687</sup> Penny Mordaunt sets out plan to empower UK women, Gov.UK (London) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/penny-mordaunt-sets-out-plan-to-empower-uk-women>.

<sup>3688</sup> Pregnant women and new parents to get enhanced redundancy protections, Gov.UK (London) 22 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pregnant-women-and-new-parents-to-get-enhanced-redundancy-protections>.

<sup>3689</sup> Pregnant women and new parents to get enhanced redundancy protections, Gov.UK (London) 22 July 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pregnant-women-and-new-parents-to-get-enhanced-redundancy-protections>.

<sup>3690</sup> New flexi job search that's not just for mums, Gov.UK (London) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-flexi-job-search-that-s-not-just-for-mums>.

<sup>3691</sup> New flexi job search that's not just for mums, Gov.UK (London) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-flexi-job-search-that-s-not-just-for-mums>.

<sup>3692</sup> New flexi job search that's not just for mums, Gov.UK (London) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-flexi-job-search-that-s-not-just-for-mums>.

<sup>3693</sup> UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Gov.UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

cooperation with the Governments of Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana, intends to offer 3,000 more job opportunities for African females and aims to reduce inequality in the workplace.<sup>3694</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the British government announced that furloughed employees applying for paid parental or adoption leave will not be entitled to pay based on a furloughed pay rate but rather on their usual earnings.<sup>3695</sup> The new initiative will ensure that the entitlement to pay for workers applying for a family-related leave will not be affected due to being furloughed in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3696</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the UK government provided a donation worth GBP2.15 million to support South Africa's solidarity fund, in promoting women employment and aiding female led enterprises impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3697</sup> The UK's donation will also contribute to empowering women in the agricultural sector in rural areas.<sup>3698</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

Thus, The United Kingdom has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Omar Abdellatif*

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

The United States of America has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market in all the three areas of recognition, reduction and reallocation.

On 30 July 2019, the House of Representatives presented a "Safe from the Start Act of 2019" bill in the First Session of the 116th Congress.<sup>3699</sup> This act aims to improve the United States consideration of, and strategic support for, programs to prevent and respond to gender-based violence from the onset of humanitarian emergencies.<sup>3700</sup>

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<sup>3694</sup> UK aid boosts support for African women entrepreneurs to expand businesses into global markets, Gov.UK (London) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 12 March 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-boosts-support-for-african-women-entrepreneurs-to-expand-businesses-into-global-markets>.

<sup>3695</sup> Furloughed workers planning to take paid parental or adoption leave will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate, Gov.UK (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/furloughed-workers-to-receive-full-parental-leave-entitlement>

<sup>3696</sup> Furloughed workers planning to take paid parental or adoption leave will be entitled to pay based on their usual earnings rather than a furloughed pay rate, Gov.UK (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/furloughed-workers-to-receive-full-parental-leave-entitlement>

<sup>3697</sup> Trade dept welcomes UK donation to solidarity fund, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/trade-dept-welcomes-uk-donation-solidarity-fund>

<sup>3698</sup> Trade dept welcomes UK donation to solidarity fund, South African Government News Agency (Pretoria) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/trade-dept-welcomes-uk-donation-solidarity-fund>

<sup>3699</sup> H.R.4092 — Safe from the Start Act of 2019, US Congress (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4092/text>.

<sup>3700</sup> H.R.4092 — Safe from the Start Act of 2019, US Congress (Washington D.C.) 7 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/4092/text>.

On 18 September 2019, U.S. Consul General Claire Pierangelo launched the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, a State Department–led initiative.<sup>3701</sup> The program’s selected participants receive lessons on business management, network with like-minded entrepreneurs and mentors, and learn the practical skills required to create successful and sustainable businesses. This initiative aims to support women entrepreneurs around the world and increase entrepreneurship skills for women.<sup>3702</sup>

On 28 August 2019, the Department of Labor awarded approximately USD1.5 million in grant funding to organizations in Illinois, Virginia, and Wisconsin to help recruit, train, and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.<sup>3703</sup> The grants serve to help increase women’s participation in traditionally male-dominated industries such as manufacturing, infrastructure, and cybersecurity.<sup>3704</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the US Chamber of Commerce urged Congress to aid childcare providers who face higher costs and decreased capacity as businesses started to reopen after coronavirus lockdowns<sup>3705</sup>. Without government action, more childcare providers will close, leaving parents fewer options to return to work and keep their children safe.<sup>3706</sup> The United States Congress had already begun initiatives, such as a small business loan program called the “Paycheck Protection Program” aimed to help childcare providers.<sup>3707</sup>

On 28 September 2020, the U.S. Department of Labor announced it will be providing a grant of USD 4.2 million in grant funding to “help recruit, train and retain more women in quality pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.”<sup>3708</sup> The aim is to promote women in the workforce. This includes increasing their welfare and wage-earning, work conditions, efficiency and amount of opportunities.<sup>3709</sup>

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<sup>3701</sup>U.S. Consulate Launches Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, US Embassy & Consulate in Nigeria (Lagos) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://ng.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-launches-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

<sup>3702</sup>U.S. Consulate Launches Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, US Embassy & Consulate in Nigeria (Lagos) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://ng.usembassy.gov/u-s-consulate-launches-academy-for-women-entrepreneurs/>.

<sup>3703</sup> U.S Department of Labor Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Increase Apprenticeship Participation, Expand Job Opportunities for American Woman, U.S. Department of Labour (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20190828>.

<sup>3704</sup> U.S Department of Labor Awards Nearly \$1.5 Million to Increase Apprenticeship Participation, Expand Job Opportunities for American Woman U.S. Department of Labour (Washington D.C.) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20190828>.

<sup>3705</sup> Coalition Letter on Assistance for Childcare Providers. US Chamber of Commerce (Washington) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. [https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=SFMC&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_content=](https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=SFMC&utm_campaign=&utm_content=)

<sup>3706</sup> Coalition Letter on Assistance for Childcare Providers. US Chamber of Commerce (Washington) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. [https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=SFMC&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_content=](https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=SFMC&utm_campaign=&utm_content=)

<sup>3707</sup> Coalition Letter on Assistance for Childcare Providers. US Chamber of Commerce (Washington) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 25 July 2020. [https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm\\_medium=Email&utm\\_source=SFMC&utm\\_campaign=&utm\\_content=](https://www.uschamber.com/letters-congress/coalition-letter-assistance-childcare-providers?utm_medium=Email&utm_source=SFMC&utm_campaign=&utm_content=)

<sup>3708</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$4.1 Million to Increase Women Participation in Apprenticeship, Expand Job Opportunities, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20200928>

<sup>3709</sup> U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$4.1 Million to Increase Women Participation in Apprenticeship, Expand Job Opportunities, U.S. Department of Labor (Washington, DC) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/wb/wb20200928>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work which remains a major obstacle to women's participation in the labour market by effectively recognizing, reducing and reallocating the burden of unpaid care work in terms of time and labour resources across individuals, communities and institutions.

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

*Analyst: Derron Yu*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to address the gender gap in unpaid care work and to take action to increase women's participation in the labour market.

On 1 August 2019, the Work-Life Balance Directive for Working Parents and Carers came into effect.<sup>3710</sup> This will encourage an improved and supportive work-life balance for both parents and carers; facilitate better sharing strategies on parental leave; and will target the lack of women within the labour market.<sup>3711</sup> The intention of the Work-Life Balance Directive for Working Parents and Carers is to grant parents and carers flexible working-hours to better facilitate women's presence within the labour market and women's economic independence.<sup>3712</sup>

In June 2019, a European Commission report suggested that the government increase the labour force participation of women to levels closer or equal to those of men, and that it provides quality childcare to support mothers' transition into the workforce.<sup>3713</sup>

On 14 January 2020 the European Commission stated it would proposed in early 2020 a new European Gender Equality Strategy to "close the gender pay gap, including through binding pay transparency measures."<sup>3714</sup> It also seeks to advance the pension gap, to promote women's access to labour markets, and to increase the number of women in senior positions in businesses and organizations. It does not specify if it addresses unpaid care work.

On 5 March 2020 the EC released its Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.<sup>3715</sup> It states that "eliminating the gender pay gap requires addressing all of its root causes, including women's lower participation in the labour market, invisible and unpaid work." It further acknowledges that "women also carry a disproportionate burden of unpaid work, which constitutes a significant share of economic activity." From this, the Strategy includes an EC proposal for a Child Guarantee to reduce barriers to access of necessary services for child well-being and development, and to address poverty and inequality. It calls on EU member states to "ensure adequate investments in early childhood education, care services and long-term care services." At the end of 2020, the EC

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<sup>3710</sup> EU Work-life Balance Directive enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=89&furtherNews=yes&langId=en&newsId=9438>.

<sup>3711</sup> EU Work-life Balance Directive enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=89&furtherNews=yes&langId=en&newsId=9438>.

<sup>3712</sup> EU Work-life Balance Directive enters into force, European Commission (Brussels) 22 August 2019. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=89&furtherNews=yes&langId=en&newsId=9438>.

<sup>3713</sup> Employment and Social Developments in Europe, Development Aid (Nicosia) June 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.developmentaid.org/api/frontend/cms/uploadedImages/2019/07/KE-BD-19-001-EN-N.pdf>.

<sup>3714</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A Strong Social Europe for Just Transitions, European Commission, 14 January 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/860460/Strong\\_Social\\_Europe\\_Communication\\_and\\_Annex.pdf.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/860460/Strong_Social_Europe_Communication_and_Annex.pdf.pdf).

<sup>3715</sup> A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025, European Commission, 5 March 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020DC0152>.



will launch a consultation process for a Green Paper on Ageing. In all the Strategy address unpaid care work, education, childcare, social care, household care, inequality, ageing, gender parity in business and government, health, intersectionality and more.

On 31 August 2020, the European Parliament published a draft report for a Motion for a European Parliament Resolution on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 and post- COVID-19 crisis period.<sup>3716</sup> The report calls on the Commission and the member states to assess the socio-economic impact of the crisis, and to allocate resources to tackling any needs that arise, as well as to the monitoring of spending, “following its commitments in the Gender Equality Strategy.”<sup>3717</sup>

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment of addressing the gender gap in unpaid care work. Through the Work-Life Balance Directive for Working Parents and Carers, the EU has implemented policies to facilitate a “family-friendly” workplace, and has taken action to address the gender pay gap in terms of unpaid work by improving public services.

Thus, the European Union has received a score of +1.

*Analyst: Miranda Bocci*

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<sup>3716</sup> DRAFT REPORT on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis period. Europe Parliament (Europe) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/FEMM-PR-653727\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/FEMM-PR-653727_EN.pdf)

<sup>3717</sup> DRAFT REPORT on the gender perspective in the COVID-19 crisis and post-crisis period. Europe Parliament (Europe) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 17 September 2020. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/FEMM-PR-653727\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/FEMM-PR-653727_EN.pdf)

### 13. Development: Energy

“[We support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards the timely implementation of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in such areas as] ... energy ... [using all means of implementation, such as the mobilization of private sector resources and capacity building assistance.]”

*G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration*

#### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India		0	
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico			+1
Russia			+1
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

#### Background

G20 leaders made their first commitment to develop energy efficiency and clean energy technologies at the 2009 London Summit.<sup>3718</sup> Since then, energy has been a constant element of every subsequent summit agenda. At the 2009 Pittsburgh Summit, 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.<sup>3719</sup> This commitment was reiterated at the 2010 Seoul Summit.<sup>3720</sup> At the 2011 Cannes Summit, G20 leaders developed the commitment

<sup>3718</sup> G20 Action Plan for Recovery and Reform (London), G20 information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

<sup>3719</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html>

<sup>3720</sup> G20 Seoul Summit Leaders' Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2010/g20seoul.html>

further by referencing the United Nations Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.<sup>3721</sup>

At the 2013 St. Petersburg Summit, G20 leaders again reaffirmed their commitment to cleaner and more efficient technologies, but also highlighted the importance of enhancing the efficiency of markets and shifting towards a more sustainable energy future.<sup>3722</sup> In Brisbane in 2014, G20 leaders adopted the Action Plan for Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Efficiency, which addressed related issues including “vehicles performance, networked devices; buildings; industrial processes; and electricity generation; as well as work on financing for energy efficiency.”<sup>3723</sup> At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 committed to increase investments in clean energy technologies and support research in this field.<sup>3724</sup> In 2016, G20 leaders at Hangzhou adopted the Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which expressed their “vision of a world of sustainable energy for all” and pledged to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy services while promoting “investment in innovative energy technologies including clean energy technologies.”<sup>3725</sup>

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the G20 shifted its focus of its energy and climate agendas towards the new sustainable development framework. In regards to energy the 2030 Agenda puts forward the SDG 7 to “ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy.” SDG 7 contains five targets:

7.1 By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.3 By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency

7.A By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology

7.B By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States, and land-locked developing countries, in accordance with their respective programmes of support.<sup>3726</sup>

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<sup>3721</sup> Cannes Final Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 4 November 2011. Access Date: 4 April 2020.

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

<sup>3722</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration St. Petersburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto), 6 September 2013. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

<sup>3723</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Brisbane, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

<sup>3724</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Antalya, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 November 2015. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communique.html>

<sup>3725</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Hangzhou, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

<sup>3726</sup> Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, United Nations. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/energy/>

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development affirms the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.<sup>3727</sup> Thus, although all countries are united in the common pursuit of sustainable growth, their relative capabilities should also be taken into account.

### Commitment Features

This commitment requires G20 members to provide assistance to developing countries in implementing SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy. To fully comply the G20 member should assist other developing countries (partner country) in meeting all five targets of SDG 7:

- to promote energy affordability, reliability and modernization of energy services in partner country;
- to support diversification of the partner country's energy mix by promoting renewable energy generation capacities;
- support partner country in improving energy efficiency of its economy;
- support clean energy research and/or technology transfer to partner country;
- assist partner country in upgrading its energy infrastructure to better supply modern and sustainable energy services.

The full compliance score is also given to a G20 member assisting three or more countries in meeting at least one of the SDG 7 targets during the monitoring period.

Reflecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities the assessment takes into account the cases of cooperation between developed and developing G20 members as contributing to the latter's compliance.

The partial compliance with the commitment is awarded if the G20 member assists the developing country in at least one of the areas mentioned above.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not assist developing countries in achieving the SDG 7.
0	G20 member assists developing countries in meeting at least one of the five SDG 7 targets.
+1	G20 member assists developing countries in meeting all five of the SDG 7 targets OR helps three or more countries in meeting at least one of the SDG 7 targets.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 27 July 2019, Brazil and Argentina signed memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the area of bioenergy, including biofuels and agreed to make the best efforts to promote the production

<sup>3727</sup> Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, United Nations General Assembly, 21 October 2015. Access date: 20 August 2020. [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A\\_RES\\_70\\_1\\_E.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf).

and use of bioenergy, including biofuels, in both countries, and their insertion in international markets.<sup>3728</sup>

On 2 August 2019, Secretary of the Government of Energy Gustavo Lopetegui met with the Minister of Energy of Chile, Juan Carlos Jobet. Together with their teams, both officials reviewed the bilateral energy cooperation agenda for both oil and gas and electrical interconnection and signed the Coordination Protocol for energy emergencies. Likewise, they reviewed the progress for the rehabilitation of the trans-Andean pipeline, the supply of Argentine gas to southern Chile and the binational electrical interconnections.<sup>3729</sup>

On 13 August 2019, 8 EUROCLIMA and Energy Efficiency projects were selected to be developed in partnership with European Union. One of the projects is greenhouse gases mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in Latin America by strengthening energy efficiency in strategic sectors in Argentina and Chile.<sup>3730</sup>

On 15 January 2020, Secretary of Energy Sergio Lanziani held a meeting with a delegation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China. They agreed on the need to “deepen collaboration in energy matters, understanding that it has potential for both countries. The agreements reached in recent years by both governments included millionaire projects in the area of energy infrastructure, such as the construction of the Condor Cliff and La Barrancosa dams on the Santa Cruz River, the Caucharí solar park in the province of Jujuy, and the development of the fourth nuclear power plant in the Buenos Aires town of Lima, among others. But Chinese companies or their financing entities for infrastructure also participated in different renewable energy projects, thermal and hydroelectric plants, in addition to what happened in the mining sector.<sup>3731</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Roberto Salvarezza met with the United States Ambassador to Argentina, Edward C. Prado, and the advisor on Science and Technology for the Secretary of State, Mung Chiang, in order to raise a cooperation agenda on topics of mutual interest. These include spatial development, biotechnology, renewable and nuclear energy, and health.<sup>3732</sup>

Argentina is a developing country and actions to advance progress towards the timely implementation of SDG 7 on its territory with the assistance of other states were counted as compliance. Argentina showed progress in one aspect of SDG 7.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>3728</sup> Memorando De Entendimento Entre A República Federativa Do Brasil E A República Argentina Sobre Cooperação Na Área De Bioenergia, Incluindo Biocombustíveis, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasília) 17 July 2019/ Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/memorando-de-entendimento-entre-a-republica-federativa-do-brasil-e-a-republica-argentina-sobre-cooperacao-na-area-de-bioenergia-incluindo-biocombustiveis-196383974>

<sup>3729</sup> Lopetegui se reunió con el ministro de Energía de Chile, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/lopetegui-se-reunio-con-el-ministro-de-energia-de-chile>

<sup>3730</sup> Seleccionados 8 proyectos en Eficiencia Energética de EUROCLIMA+, Euroclima Plus (Brussels) 13 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://euroclimaplus.org/noticias-eventos-energia/noticias-energia/471-seleccionados-8-proyectos-en-eficiencia-energetica-de-euroclima>

<sup>3731</sup> Argentina y China expresaron interés en abordar nuevos rubros de cooperación energética, National News Agency of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 15 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.telam.com.ar/notas/202001/424278-argentina-china-cooperacion-energia.html>

<sup>3732</sup> Argentina afianza lazos de cooperación científica con Estados Unidos, Government of Argentina 9 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-afianza-lazos-de-cooperacion-cientifica-con-estados-unidos>

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

According to the list of the projects supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), in 2019-2020 Australia co-funded four development assistance projects aimed at achieving SDG 7 in developing countries:

1. Appropriate and sustainable water, sanitation and health and energy solutions for communities in Vanuatu living in challenging environments. ANCP's contribution amounted to AUD235,951.
2. Strongim Meri Bisnis / Strengthening Women in Business. This project in Papua New Guinea was funded with AUD125,833 from ANCP.
3. SMART Shelters. ANCP co-funded this project in Fiji with AUD135,000.
4. Inclusive and Transformative Extractives Industries in Southern Africa. ANCP's funding of this project in Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe was AUD1,031,801.<sup>3733</sup>

The aforementioned projects aimed to assist partner countries in promoting energy affordability and energy efficiency, covering two of the five targets of SDG 7.

Australia provided assistance to developing countries in meeting two of the five targets of SDG 7.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 27 July 2019, Brazil and Argentina signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on cooperation in the area of bioenergy, including biofuels and agreed to make the best efforts to promote the production and use of bioenergy, including biofuels, in both countries, and their insertion in international markets.<sup>3734</sup>

On 27 September 2019, Brazil, Angola and Mozambique signed an action plan under the framework of South-South cooperation on nuclear energy. It includes national projects to be implemented with the support of the International Atomic Energy Agency, during the 2020-2021 cycle. Those projects include the establishment of technologist programs in physical medicine and radiotherapy at the Angolan Institute for Cancer Control, national radiation safety policy and strategy, waste

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<sup>3733</sup> ANCP Projects in 2019-20, Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Canberra). Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/ancp-projects-2019-20.xlsx>.

<sup>3734</sup> Memorando De Entendimento Entre A República Federativa Do Brasil E A República Argentina Sobre Cooperação Na Área De Bioenergia, Incluindo Biocombustíveis, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasília) 17 July 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/memorando-de-entendimento-entre-a-republica-federativa-do-brasil-e-a-republica-argentina-sobre-cooperacao-na-area-de-bioenergia-incluindo-biocombustiveis-196383974>

management, radiation safety education and training, and the creation of national regulatory infrastructure for radiation protection and safety.<sup>3735</sup>

On 25 October 2019, Brazil and China signed an MOU to cooperate on renewable energies and energy efficiency. It intends to establish the basis for a collaborative institutional relationship of bilateral cooperation in the areas of new and renewable energies and energy efficiency.<sup>3736</sup>

On 25 January 2016, President Jair Bolsonaro and Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi presented a list of 15 acts with cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding in various areas of interest, such as energy, oil and gas, biofuels, biotechnology, health, social security, science and technology and security.<sup>3737</sup>

On 14 February 2020, Brazil announced it is considering constructing a hydroelectric plant with Bolivia. The project would be on the Mamoré River, above the municipality of Guajará-Mirim, with experience and investments from Itaipu. The ministry estimated the value of construction of the binational plant with Bolivia at around USD5 billion.<sup>3738</sup>

Brazil provided assistance to developing countries in meeting two of the five targets of SDG 7.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

According to the Global Affairs Canada Project Browser, during the monitoring period Canada initiated two new development assistance projects aimed at achieving SDG 7 in developing countries:

1. Enhancing Women's Leadership and Involvement in Cuba's Renewable Energy Sector. This project, started on 19 February 2020, supports vulnerable communities in Holguin, Cuba, particularly women, by improving their access to renewable energy (RE) technology and enhancing women's involvement in the RE sector. The activities under the project include: the installation of RE equipment, developing RE gender-responsive academic curricula and learning material and enhancing the RE training capacity of women professors, implementing strategies

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<sup>3735</sup> Angola assina acordo de cooperação com Brasil e Moçambique, Agência Angola Press (Luanda) 27 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.angop.ao/angola/pt\\_pt/noticias/sociedade/2019/8/39/Angola-assina-acordo-cooperacao-com-Brasil-Mocambique,0751f918-3c59-4e93-89ed-ff66b34e05a6.html](https://www.angop.ao/angola/pt_pt/noticias/sociedade/2019/8/39/Angola-assina-acordo-cooperacao-com-Brasil-Mocambique,0751f918-3c59-4e93-89ed-ff66b34e05a6.html)

<sup>3736</sup> Governo assina intenções de cooperação com a China em energias renováveis, Centro Nacional das Indústrias do Setor Sucoenergético e Biocombustíveis (Sertãozinho) 25 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.ceisebr.com/conteudo/governo-assina-intencoes-de-cooperacao-com-a-china-em-energias-renovaveis.html>

<sup>3737</sup> Brasil e Índia estreitam laços e firmam 15 acordos de cooperação, Correio Braziliense (New Delhi) 25 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. [https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/politica/2020/01/25/interna\\_politica,823273/brasil-e-india-estreitam-lacos-e-firmam-15-acordos-de-cooperacao.shtml](https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/politica/2020/01/25/interna_politica,823273/brasil-e-india-estreitam-lacos-e-firmam-15-acordos-de-cooperacao.shtml)

<sup>3738</sup> Brasil avalia construção de hidrelétrica binacional com a Bolívia, Jornal Acre 24 horas (Acre) 16 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.ac24horas.com/2020/02/16/brasil-avalia-construcao-de-hidreletrica-binacional-com-a-bolivia/>

that encourage women's participation and engagement as decision-makers in the RE sector. Canada's contribution to this project amounts to CAD7 million.<sup>3739</sup>

2. Support to Jordan's Growth Matrix. This project, launched on 9 March 2020 aims to provide technical assistance and analytics to help implement the reforms identified in Jordan's five-year Equitable Growth and Job Creation Transformation Matrix. The goals of the project are: to establish sound governance and economic management; increase private sector growth and competitiveness; improve labor markets and social safety nets; and improve efficiency and effectiveness in transportation, water, and energy sectors. Canada's contribution to this project amounts to CAD5 million.<sup>3740</sup>

The two projects, launched by Canada during the monitoring period supported developing countries in promoting energy affordability and reliability, renewable energy generation capacities, improving energy efficiency; developing clean energy research as well as upgrading their energy infrastructure, thus covering all five targets of SDG 7.

Canada provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five targets of SDG 7.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakebarov*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 25 October 2019, the Association of China Rare Earth Industry announced that it would build a solar plant in North Korea near Pyongyang. A 2.5 GW solar plant is reported to be constructed in exchange for mining rights for a rare earth mine in the northern part of the central province.<sup>3741</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Energy of Kazakhstan reported that Chinese contractors finished installation of a wind farm and a solar plant of 5 MW and 1 MW generating capacity respectively. The Chinese side donated new equipment for the construction of the wind park and solar park at no cost.<sup>3742</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the representatives of China National Petroleum Corporation Economic and Technological Institute and Africa Policy Institute signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation in research and policy dialogue aimed at spotlighting investment opportunities in Africa's energy sector. The parties hope to boost sustainable development of energy resources by means of enhanced transfer of technologies and knowledge sharing.<sup>3743</sup>

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<sup>3739</sup> Project profile — Enhancing Women's Leadership and Involvement in Cuba's Renewable Energy Sector, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P005464001>.

<sup>3740</sup> Project profile — Support to Jordan's Growth Matrix, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://w05.international.gc.ca/projectbrowser-banqueprojets/project-projet/details/P007369001>.

<sup>3741</sup> North Korea plans 2.5 GW solar plant with Chinese help, PV Magazine Group (Berlin) 25 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2019/10/25/north-korea-plans-2-5-gw-solar-plant-with-chinese-help/>

<sup>3742</sup> China helps Kazakhstan build solar and wind power plants, New Europe 29 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/china-helps-kazakhstan-build-solar-and-wind-power-plants/>

<sup>3743</sup> Kenya hosts forum on China-Africa energy cooperation, Xinhua News (Nairobi) 14 December 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/14/c\\_138629468\\_2.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-12/14/c_138629468_2.htm)



On 19 December 2019, Kenya announced the completion of a new solar plant near Garissa town that was built with support of Chinese counterparts. The project was financed by both parties, but China was also responsible for provision of proper equipment and technologies. The plant is expected to run for 25 years providing 50 MW of electricity that makes it one of the largest in Africa.<sup>3744</sup>

On 13 January 2020, Egypt announced that Chinese state-owned Gezhouba Group would build 500 MW of solar plants across the country. If plants are completed, the total share of renewables in Egypt's energy mix will reach 42 per cent by 2035.<sup>3745</sup>

On 18 February 2020, a state-owned China Energy Engineering Corporation announced its intention to build 500 MW of solar power plant in Uganda. The estimated amount of necessary investments reaches USD500 million.<sup>3746</sup>

On 7 May 2020, China and Brazil held a videoconference on cooperation in renewable energy. The topics of the webinar included new challenges of cooperation on renewable energy between China and Brazil brought by COVID-19, measures to be taken to strengthen cooperation on renewable energy between China and Brazil in the context of COVID-19, policies and trends of Brazilian energy markets regulation.<sup>3747</sup>

On 10 June 2020, China's state-owned Silk Road Fund acquired 49 per cent of the Saudi Arabia's ACWA Power Renewable Energy Holding. China is poised to secure its position as a leading financier, developer, and operator in the Gulf's renewable energy market.<sup>3748</sup>

China is providing assistance to developing countries in meeting all five targets of SDG 7.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

France supports numerous initiatives aimed at promoting the achievement of SDG 7 in developing countries, such as Africa Renewable Energy Scale Up program,<sup>3749</sup> African Network of Centers of

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<sup>3744</sup> Kenya launches Chinese-built 50 MW solar power plant, Pinsent Masons (London) 19 December 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.pinsentmasons.com/out-law/news/kenya-launches-chinese-built-50mw-solar-power-plant>

<sup>3745</sup> Egypt: China Gezhouba Group to build 500 MW of solar power plants, Afrik 21 Group 13 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/egypt-china-gezhouba-group-to-build-500-mw-of-solar-power-plants/>

<sup>3746</sup> State-owned Chinese firm to build 500MW of solar in Uganda, PV Tech (London) 18 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020.: <https://www.pv-tech.org/news/state-owned-chinese-firm-to-build-500mw-of-solar-in-uganda>

<sup>3747</sup> China and Brazil Held Videoconference of High-Quality Cooperation on Renewable Energy, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) People's Republic of China 07 May 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. [https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/newsrelease\\_8232/202005/t20200528\\_1229136.html](https://en.ndrc.gov.cn/newsrelease_8232/202005/t20200528_1229136.html)

<sup>3748</sup> China Strengthens its Presence in Gulf Renewable Energy, the Arab Gulf States Institute 10 June 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. <https://agsiw.org/china-strengthens-its-presence-in-gulf-renewable-energy/>

<sup>3749</sup> Lancement de ARE Scale Up : soutenir la transition énergétique en Afrique, French Development Agency (Paris) 20 February 2018. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/fr/actualites/lancement-de-are-scale-soutenir-la-transition-energetique-en-afrique>.

Excellence in Electricity,<sup>3750</sup> and National Control Center to upgrade and optimize the power grid in Niger.<sup>3751</sup>

In 2019, the French Development Agency launched 11 projects in the area of sustainable energy in developing countries, and all of them were underway during the compliance period, including financial disbursements in 2020.<sup>3752</sup>

France has provided assistance to more than three developing countries in meeting at least one SDG 7 target.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

As of 15 May 2020, the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) had 69 active projects worth EUR530 million in energy generation, distribution and efficiency, as well as 34 projects worth EUR373 million in energy generation from renewable sources.<sup>3753</sup> The projects underway cover different aspects of SDG 7, including modernization of energy services, promotion of renewable energy generation capacities, improving energy efficiency; supporting clean energy research and transfer of technologies, and improving energy supply in deprived regions.<sup>3754</sup>

Germany has provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five targets of SDG 7.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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<sup>3750</sup> African Network of Centers of Excellence in Electricity, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 January 2014. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/carte-des-projets/african-network-centers-excellence-electricity-ancee>.

<sup>3751</sup> A national control center to upgrade and optimize the power grid, French Development Agency (Paris) 1 January 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/carte-des-projets/national-control-center-upgrade-and-optimize-power-grid>.

<sup>3752</sup> Projects, French Development Agency (Paris) 28 September 2020. Access Date: 28 September 2020. [https://www.afd.fr/en/carte-des-projets?query=%2A&page=all&filter%5B0%5D=type\\_k%3D%22page\\_afd\\_project%22&filter%5B1%5D=type\\_k%3D%22page\\_ong\\_project%22&filter%5B2%5D=type\\_k%3D%22page\\_research\\_project%22&filter%5B3%5D=source\\_k%3D%22afd%22&filter%5B4%5D=year\\_k%3D%222020%22&filter%5B5%5D=year\\_k%3D%222019%22&filter%5B6%5D=thematic\\_k%3D%22Energy%22&view=map&size=10000&from=0&sort=\\_score%2Cdesc&facetOptions%5B0%5D=funding\\_program\\_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B1%5D=funding\\_type\\_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B2%5D=thematic\\_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B3%5D=country\\_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B4%5D=program\\_family\\_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B5%5D=year\\_k%2Csize%2C200&type=0](https://www.afd.fr/en/carte-des-projets?query=%2A&page=all&filter%5B0%5D=type_k%3D%22page_afd_project%22&filter%5B1%5D=type_k%3D%22page_ong_project%22&filter%5B2%5D=type_k%3D%22page_research_project%22&filter%5B3%5D=source_k%3D%22afd%22&filter%5B4%5D=year_k%3D%222020%22&filter%5B5%5D=year_k%3D%222019%22&filter%5B6%5D=thematic_k%3D%22Energy%22&view=map&size=10000&from=0&sort=_score%2Cdesc&facetOptions%5B0%5D=funding_program_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B1%5D=funding_type_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B2%5D=thematic_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B3%5D=country_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B4%5D=program_family_k%2Csize%2C200&facetOptions%5B5%5D=year_k%2Csize%2C200&type=0).

<sup>3753</sup> Project data, German Corporation for International Cooperation. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [https://www.giz.de/projekt/daten/index.action?request\\_locale=en\\_GB](https://www.giz.de/projekt/daten/index.action?request_locale=en_GB).

<sup>3754</sup> Energy Newsletter No. 70, German Corporation for International Cooperation February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://login.mailingswork.de/-viewonline2/1593/7353/6101/DXhnh1WX/PeZT7bXcOw/1>.

**India: 0**

India has partially complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 10 September 2020, India and China agreed on cooperation in research and development for developing new technology for manufacturing solar cell from alternate material and improvement of efficiency of solar cells.<sup>3755</sup>

On 7 November 2019, Union Cabinet gave approval to a pact signed between India and Guinea in the field of renewable energy. “The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given approval for the MoU [memorandum of understanding] between India and Guinea in the field of renewable energy,” an official statement said. The objective of the MOU is to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship and to encourage and promote bilateral technical cooperation in renewable energy on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity between the parties. The areas of cooperation include solar energy, wind energy, bio-energy, and waste to energy, small hydro storage and capacity build.<sup>3756</sup>

On 25 November 2019, India and Germany announced they will collaborate on Mumbai Metro and solar energy projects as part of bilateral cooperation in energy and urban development sectors.<sup>3757</sup>

On 25 January 2020, President Jair Bolsonaro and Prime Minister Modi presented a list of 15 acts with cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding in various areas of interest, such as energy, oil and gas, biofuels, biotechnology, health, social security, science and technology and security.<sup>3758</sup>

On 24-25 February 2020, US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the announcement of a USD600 million financing facility for renewable energy projects, including solar and wind, in India by International Development Finance Corporation, an American development bank.<sup>3759</sup>

India is a developing country and actions to advance progress towards the timely implementation of SDG 7 on its territory with the assistance of other states were counted as compliance. Indonesia showed progress in three aspects of SDG7.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>3755</sup> India, China to cooperate in R&D for developing new tech for manufacturing solar cell, Economic Times India 10 September 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/productline/power-generation/india-china-to-cooperate-in-rd-for-developing-new-tech-for-manufacturing-solar-cell/articleshow/71064769.cms>

<sup>3756</sup> Cabinet approves pact with Guinea on renewable energy, Economic Times India 7 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/productline/power-generation/cabinet-approves-pact-with-guinea-on-renewable-energy/articleshow/71950379.cms>

<sup>3757</sup> India and Germany to Collaborate on Development of Solar Projects, Saur Energy International 25 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.saurenergy.com/solar-energy-news/india-germany-collaborate-development-solar-projects>

<sup>3758</sup> [https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/politica/2020/01/25/interna\\_politica,823273/brasil-e-india-estreitam-lacos-e-firmam-15-acordos-de-cooperacao.shtml](https://www.correiobraziliense.com.br/app/noticia/politica/2020/01/25/interna_politica,823273/brasil-e-india-estreitam-lacos-e-firmam-15-acordos-de-cooperacao.shtml)

<sup>3759</sup> India and US set to deepen strategic energy partnership, Observer Research Foundation 5 March 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/india-and-us-set-to-deepen-strategic-energy-partnership-61962/>

## Indonesia: 0

Indonesia has partially complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

Indonesia and the German Society for International Cooperation cooperated on several projects during the compliance period.

- Strengthening Climate Governance in Indonesia (2017-2021). The project helps to improve climate governance capacities of the key climate policy stakeholders in various dimensions, so that core elements of key components of the international climate regime are developed, adapted to the national context, harmonised and embedded in the national climate policy. In order to achieve this, the project provides needs-based and tailored policy advice as well as technical trainings for capacity development.<sup>3760</sup>
- Promoting sustainable urban transport (2016-2020). The programme is providing financial and practical support to pilot projects in seven cities. Together with its partner, the programme is setting up a measurement, reporting and verification system for greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>3761</sup>
- 1,000 Islands — Renewable Energy for Electrification Programme (2017-2020). The goal is achieving a 23 per cent share of renewable energies in Indonesia.<sup>3762</sup>

In September 2019, Indonesia, officially joined Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G) Initiative aimed to connect and incorporate all leaders in private sector, government, and civil society organizations to deliver the nationally determined contribution under Paris Agreement and SDGs in five key areas, namely food and agriculture (SDG 2), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities (SDG 11) and circular economy (SDG 12). P4G Summits are held biannually, and Indonesia will be hosting the next summit in 2022.<sup>3763</sup>

On 26 September 2019, the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved a USD150 million loan for Indonesia to scale up investments in geothermal energy by reducing the risks of early-stage exploration. The loan is accompanied by USD127.5 million in grants from the Green Climate Fund and the Clean Technology Fund, two institutions supporting climate-friendly development.<sup>3764</sup>

On 15 January 2020, it was reported that Abu Dhabi-based renewable energy group Masdar is set to build Indonesia's first floating solar power plant. The project is expected to be the largest of its kind in Southeast Asia.<sup>3765</sup>

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<sup>3760</sup> Strengthening Climate Governance in Indonesia, German Society for International Cooperation (Bonn). Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/74148.html>

<sup>3761</sup> Promoting sustainable urban transport, German Society for International Cooperation (Bonn). Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/42943.html>

<sup>3762</sup> 1,000 Islands — Renewable Energy for Electrification Programme, German Society for International Cooperation (Bonn). Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/63533.html>

<sup>3763</sup> Indonesia's P4G National Platform Launch: A Decade of Partnership 13 March. 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://gggi.org/indonesias-p4g-national-platform-launch-a-decade-of-partnership/>

<sup>3764</sup> Indonesia: Scaling Up Geothermal Energy by Reducing Exploration Risks, WTO (Washington) 26 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/09/26/indonesia-scaling-up-geothermal-energy-by-reducing-exploration-risks>

<sup>3765</sup> Masdar and PLN enter partnership to develop first floating solar power plant in Indonesia, Masdar (Abu Dhabi) 15 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://news.masdar.ae/en/news/2020/01/19/06/56/masdar-and-pln-enter-partnership-to-develop-first-floating-solar-power-plant-in-indonesia>

Indonesia is a developing country and actions to advance progress towards the timely implementation of SDG 7 on its territory with the assistance of other states were counted as compliance. Indonesia showed progress in three aspects of SDG 7.

Thus, it receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 18 November 2019, Terna, the company that manages the Italian electricity grid, inaugurated new power line that connected Italy with Montenegro and, therefore, connect the Balkans to Europe for the first time. The power line, linking Cepagatti and Kotor, was inaugurated in the presence of the president of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella and the president of Montenegro, Milo Đukanović.<sup>3766</sup>

On 12 February 2020, Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment participated in Energy Roundtable organized in Tirana by the Italian Embassy in collaboration with the Italian Trade Agency, the Italian Chamber of Commerce and Confindustria Albania. Parties discussed achieving greater regional energy integration for a more competitive market; ensuring full and active engagement of the private sector in the Albanian energy sector reform processes; safeguarding the requests of companies already present in the area by providing more analysis tools for Italian companies interested in investing in Albania, starting from the recent submarine power cable created by TERNIA between Italy and Montenegro.<sup>3767</sup>

On 23 September 2020, Minister of Energy of Algier Abdelmadjid Attar, met with Italian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and International Cooperation Manlio Di Stefano with whom he discussed ways to intensify energy cooperation between the two countries especially in the field of renewable energy.<sup>3768</sup>

Italy has provided assistance to more than three developing countries in meeting at least one SDG 7 target.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

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<sup>3766</sup> Terna Inaugurates Italy – Montenegro Power Link, Offshore Energy 18 November 2019. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.offshore-energy.biz/terna-inaugurates-italy-montenegro-power-link/>

<sup>3767</sup> ARERA at the Albania Energy Roundtable as part of the project for the development of energy markets in the Balkans, Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment 12 February 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. [https://arera.it/allegati/com\\_stampa/20/200212eng.pdf](https://arera.it/allegati/com_stampa/20/200212eng.pdf)

<sup>3768</sup> Algeria-Italy: Renewable energy at center of energy cooperation, Algeria Press Service 23 September 2020. Access date: 3 October 2020. <http://www.aps.dz/en/economy/35852-algeria-italy-renewable-energy-at-center-of-energy-cooperation>

On 30 June 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a loan agreement with the government of Bangladesh to provide a Japanese official development assistance loan of up to JPY143,127 billion for the Matarbari Ultra Super Critical Coal-Fired Power Plant project; the project will construct an ultra-supercritical coal-fired power plant with a rated output of 1,200 megawatts; JICA also provides other forms of assistance in the energy sector in Bangladesh, such as the proliferation of renewable energy, the installation of low-loss electric cables with reduced transmission loss, the enhancement of energy conservation and assistance with gas imports.<sup>3769</sup>

On 7 October 2019, JICA signed a USD37 million loan agreement with Da Nhim-Ham Thuan-Da Mi Hydro Power Joint Stock Company to provide funding for installation of Vietnam's first floating solar power plant to reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels such as coal in favour of clean domestic energy resources, and further promote introduction of renewable energy.<sup>3770</sup>

On 18 October 2019, JICA signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Investment Bank, with the goal to strengthen the partnership of the two institutions, including on sustainable energy in the developing countries.<sup>3771</sup>

On 28 November 2019, JICA signed a record of discussions with the government of Cuba for a technical cooperation for development planning for the Electricity Sector Master Plan Study for Development of Renewable Energy by 2030, and contribution to the enhancement of renewable energy utilization in Cuba.<sup>3772</sup>

On 13 December 2019, JICA signed grant agreements with the government of Mozambique, including a JPY4,084 billion worth grant agreement for development of Nacala Emergency Power Plant; the project aims to eliminate the short-term power supply and demand gap and stabilize power supply, and will contribute to the achievement of SDG 7.<sup>3773</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the Asian Development Bank signed a USD37.8 million loan agreement with TTC Energy Development Investment Joint Stock Company provide the first project finance for solar power project in Vietnam; USD7.6 million of the loan will be provided in the form of a concessional non-parallel loan to be drawn from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, to improve the bankability and financial viability of the project; the project will develop and operate the 50 MW solar power plant and its associated facilities in Tay Ninh Province in Vietnam contribute to meet the growing power demand in Southern Vietnam as well as diversify energy sources.<sup>3774</sup>

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<sup>3769</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Bangladesh: Contributing to economic revitalization by responding to rapidly increasing electricity demand, JICA 1 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190701\\_31\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190701_31_en.html)

<sup>3770</sup> JICA investment in LEAP Fund to help finance Vietnam's first large-scale floating solar power plant, JICA 7 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191007\\_10\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191007_10_en.html)

<sup>3771</sup> Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the European Investment Bank, JICA 18 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191018\\_41.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191018_41.html)

<sup>3772</sup> Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation for Development Planning with Cuba: Expanding the Use of Renewable Energy, JICA 29 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191129\\_21.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191129_21.html)

<sup>3773</sup> Signing of Grant Agreements with Mozambique: Contributing to the improvement of access and quality of secondary education and securing stable electric power in the northern interior region of the country, JICA 13 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191212\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191212_41_en.html)

<sup>3774</sup> JICA investment in LEAP Fund to provide project finance for solar power plant in Vietnam, JICA 22 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200122\\_10\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200122_10_en.html)

On 28 January 2020, JICA signed a loan agreement with the government of Ecuador to provide a Japanese loan of up to USD70 million for the project for supporting the advancement of energy matrix transition; the objective of the project is to contribute to the achievement of SDG 7 through promoting: (i) greater access to renewable energy, (ii) stabilization of the energy supply, (iii) energy efficiency through the expansion and reinforcement of the National Transmission System and the National Distribution System, and the improvement of the operational efficiency of the electrical system.<sup>3775</sup>

Japan has taken significant efforts to support developing countries in implementing SDGs in the energy domain in all areas of SDG 7.

Thus, Japan is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 20 December 2019, the state-owned Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power Co. was selected as one of main investors for a nuclear plant project in Bulgaria. The Korean energy firm, along with Russia's Rosatom and the China National Nuclear Corporation, were selected as strategic candidates for the new nuclear energy plant project in northern Bulgaria, its ministry said.<sup>3776</sup>

On 23 December 2019, the subsidiary organization of the state-owned Korea Electric Power Corporation, Korea Western Power Co., announced its intention to expand its overseas solar power generation projects to 1 GW. Korea Western Power is planning to advance into overseas solar power generation markets including Southeast Asia.<sup>3777</sup>

On 12 August 2020, Korea and Fiji Signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in renewable energy. The MOU will enable the two agencies — the Korea Energy Agency and Fiji's Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services — to work collaboratively in exploring potential renewable energy projects based on the list of sites provided by Fiji's Ministry of Infrastructure and Meteorological Services.<sup>3778</sup>

On 7 September 2020, Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed to step up cooperation in the renewable energy sector. The agreement was reached at an online meeting between Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki and the UAE's economy minister, Abdulla Bin Touq Al Marri.<sup>3779</sup>

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<sup>3775</sup> Signing of Dollar-Denominated Japanese ODA Loan Agreement with Ecuador: Contributing to the promotion of the Energy Matrix Transition through expansion and strengthening of the National Transmission and Distribution Systems, JICA 29 January 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200129\\_31\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200129_31_en.html)

<sup>3776</sup> S. Korean firm shortlisted for Bulgarian nuclear plant project, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191220000101&np=74&mp=8>

<sup>3777</sup> Korea Western Power to Expand Solar Power Generation Business Abroad, Business Korea (Seoul) 23 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.businesskorea.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=39467>

<sup>3778</sup> Korea signs renewable energy MoU with Fiji, Fiji Embassy in Seoul 12 August 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. <https://fijiembassy.co.kr/korea-signs-renewable-energy-mou-with-fiji/>

<sup>3779</sup> S. Korea, UAE to forge cooperation in renewable energy, Korea Herald 08 September 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200908000162>

On 11 September 2020, the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), has launched a US\$18 million project to provide access to solar power and clean water in remote parts of Indonesia and Timor-Leste.<sup>3780</sup>

Korea is providing assistance to developing countries in meeting all five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 26-27 June 2019, a high level meeting was held between authorities of the Energy Sector of Mexico and the countries of Central America, at the facilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about the vision of the energy sector in the country, as well as to report on the progress obtained from cooperation with Central America on the matter, specifically the Mexican Electric Interconnection with the Electric Interconnection System for the countries of Central America.<sup>3781</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the foreign ministers and other high authorities of the governments of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to the Comprehensive Development Plan in order to find comprehensive solutions for migration, sustainable development and deepen regional cooperation. Important recommendations have been generated that pay to its strategic pillars, among which energy and decarbonization of the economy are one of the most important.<sup>3782</sup>

On 14-16 October 2019, the Ministry of Energy and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation received at its facilities the Mexico-Honduras Technical Mission, with the objective to support the formulation of a draft public policy on energy efficiency. The three-day agenda included the analysis and exchange of experiences of officials of this commission on the central programs of the institution, particularly the general administrative provisions on energy efficiency in buildings, vehicle fleets and industrial facilities of the administration. In addition, topics related to energy efficiency planning and statistics, energy management systems, solar heat for the service sector, users of high energy consumption pattern and voluntary agreements, as well as standardization for energy efficiency were addressed.<sup>3783</sup>

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<sup>3780</sup> S. Korea, UN launch \$18 m solar project in remote parts of Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Jakarta Post 11 September 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/09/11/s-korea-un-launch-18-m-solar-project-in-remote-parts-of-indonesia-timor-leste.html>

<sup>3781</sup> Sector Energético México-América Central, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 27 June 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/amexcid/prensa/sector-energetico-mexico-america-central-206830?idiom=es>

<sup>3782</sup> El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y México reafirman su compromiso con el Plan de Desarrollo Integral, CEPAL 27 September 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.cepal.org/es/comunicados/salvador-guatemala-honduras-mexico-reafirman-su-compromiso-plan-desarrollo-integral>

<sup>3783</sup> La Conuee apoya a Honduras en la preparación de políticas públicas en materia de eficiencia, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 24 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [energéticahttps://www.gob.mx/conuee/articulos/la-conuee-apoya-a-honduras-en-la-preparacion-de-politicas-publicas-en-materia-de-eficiencia-energetica?idiom=es](https://www.gob.mx/conuee/articulos/la-conuee-apoya-a-honduras-en-la-preparacion-de-politicas-publicas-en-materia-de-eficiencia-energetica?idiom=es)



On 17 October 2019, Mexico and Cuba agreed to make a cooperative effort in energy, education and health matters with the objective of achieving tangible results.<sup>3784</sup>

Mexico is providing assistance to developing countries in meeting three targets of SDG 7.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 23 October 2019, President Vladimir Putin met with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. President Putin highlighted that Russia would continue its assistance to Egypt in building a nuclear power plant.<sup>3785</sup>

On 24 October 2019, President Putin made a statement for the press following the Russia-Africa Summit. He informed that Energy is an important area of economic cooperation between Russia and Africa. Joint projects are implemented in traditional sectors such as hydrocarbon production, construction and repair of power generation facilities as well as in peaceful nuclear energy and the use of renewable energy sources.<sup>3786</sup>

On 29 October 2019, President Putin held talks with President of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez. They discussed proposals for cooperation in the area of nuclear energy.<sup>3787</sup>

On 4 December 2019, President Putin and President of Serbia Aleksandar Vucic made a joint press statement. They informed on the agreement to increase the capacity of underground gas storage in Serbia from 750 million cubic metres to 2 billion cubic metres, thus helping significantly strengthen energy security in Serbia.<sup>3788</sup>

On 18 February 2020, Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko held talks with President of Zambia Edgar Chagwa Lungu. She informed on the plans to launch the joint establishment of the Zambia Centre for Nuclear Science and Technology seen as a first step to develop the nuclear energy sector in this country.<sup>3789</sup>

Russia has provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five SDG 7 targets.

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<sup>3784</sup> Cuba y México explorarán cooperación en materia energética y de salud, El Economista (Mexico City) 17 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.economista.com.mx/internacionales/Cuba-y-Mexico-exploraran-cooperacion-en-materia-energetica-y-de-salud-20191017-0063.html>

<sup>3785</sup> Meeting with President of Egypt Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, President of Russia 23 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61879>.

<sup>3786</sup> Press statements by presidents of Russia and Egypt following Russia–Africa Summit, President of Russia 24 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61896>.

<sup>3787</sup> Talks with President of Cuba Miguel Diaz-Canel Bermudez, President of Russia 29 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61930>.

<sup>3788</sup> News conference following Russian-Serbian talks, President of Russia 4 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/62240>.

<sup>3789</sup> Federation Council Speaker Valentina Matviyenko holds talks with President of Zambia Edgar Lungu, Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation 18 February 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://council.gov.ru/en/events/news/113761>.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 8 March 2020, Saudi Arabia and Uzbekistan signed an agreement on energy cooperation. The agreement implies construction of a 1500 MW solar power plant and a 500-1000 MW wind farm in Uzbekistan worth up to USD 2.5 billion. New facilities would be installed near Shirin city.<sup>3790</sup>

On 18 August 2020, Saudi Arabia and Jordan have signed a memorandum of understanding on power grid interconnection project. Under its terms, the two countries will establish a framework of joint cooperation for the development of the interconnection project.<sup>3791</sup>

Saudi Arabia is providing assistance to developing countries in meeting one of the SDG 7 targets.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially comply with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 26 August 2019, the Development Bank of South Africa and the Green Climate Fund established a Climate Finance Facility. The new entity is said to attract private investments in green projects in Southern Africa developing countries (e.g., Namibia and Lesoto). The initial capitalization of the facility reaches USD100 million.<sup>3792</sup>

South Africa is assisting developing countries in meeting one of the five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on supporting developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

In January 2020, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency jointly with the Ministry of National Education held in Libya a two-week course “Renewable Energy and Solar Energy

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<sup>3790</sup> Saudi Arabia’s ACWA Power, Uzbekistan sign \$2.5bn energy agreements, Gulf Business (Dubai) 09 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://gulfbusiness.com/saudi-arabias-acwa-power-uzbekistan-sign-2-5bn-energy-agreements/>

<sup>3791</sup> Jordan signs MoU with Saudi Arabia for power grid interconnection project, NS Energy 18 August 2020. Access date: 30 September 2020. <https://www.nsenerybusiness.com/news/jordan-mou-saudi-arabia-interconnection/>

<sup>3792</sup> South Africa establishes Climate Finance Facility, Smart Cities World (London) 26 August 2019. Access date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/southern-africa-establishes-climate-finance-facility-4516>

(Photovoltaic) Systems,” as part of the Vocational Training and Employment Programs, aimed to satisfy the need for educated professionals in the sphere, arising from the departure of the foreign labor force due to political and economic crises in Libya.<sup>3793</sup>

On 20 February 2020, the Turkish parliament’s Foreign Affairs Committee approved a deal signed with Ethiopia to cooperate in energy, hydrocarbons and mining; the Turkey-Ethiopia energy cooperation mechanism will focus on promoting cooperation in the fields of mining and hydrocarbon, joint projects in the development and promotion of minerals, oil and gas exploration and exploitation; storage, marketing, transport and distribution of oil derivatives; construction and maintenance of oil and gas infrastructure; and the application of gas technology.<sup>3794</sup>

On 22 February 2020, the Foreign Affairs Committee approved the memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Somalia on comprehensive energy and mining cooperation, which will focus on projects for the exploration, production and refining of hydrocarbons; natural gas processing, storage, transportation, marketing and distribution; geosciences and reservoir engineering; petrochemical and derived products; and the development and maintenance of infrastructure and associated technologies with regards to the hydrocarbons.<sup>3795</sup>

Turkey is assisting three developing countries in meeting one of the five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 11 September 2019, the UK and Somaliland renewed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support the implementation of the Energy Security and Resource Efficiency in Somaliland (ESRES) Programme that aims to provide a clean, affordable renewable energy boost in Somaliland. ESRES will address the high costs of electricity in Somaliland and help promote green growth and poverty reduction by increasing access to more affordable and reliable renewable energy services. Previously the programme supported the installation of six hybrid mini-grids providing clean energy and lowering energy prices in sites across Somaliland.<sup>3796</sup>

On 20 January 2020, at the UK-Africa Investment Summit, the UK government announced new initiatives and funding which will enable Africa’s clean energy potential. In particular, it also announced a package of new initiatives to:

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<sup>3793</sup> Training on Renewable Energy in Libya with the Support of TİKA, TİKA 14 January 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/training\\_on\\_renewable\\_energy\\_in\\_libya\\_with\\_the\\_support\\_of\\_tika-55311](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/training_on_renewable_energy_in_libya_with_the_support_of_tika-55311)

<sup>3794</sup> Turkey approves agreement with Ethiopia for cooperation in petroleum and mining, Nordic Monitor 20 February 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.nordicmonitor.com/2020/02/turkey-approves-agreement-with-ethiopia-for-cooperation-in-petroleum-and-mining/>

<sup>3795</sup> Turkey sets up mechanism to explore oil, gas and mining opportunities in Somalia, Nordic Monitor 22 February 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.nordicmonitor.com/2020/02/turkey-set-up-mechanism-to-explore-oil-gas-and-mining-opportunities-in-somalia/>

<sup>3796</sup> British government signs agreements worth £31 million to support development in Somaliland, UK Government 11 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-government-signs-agreements-worth-31m-to-support-development-in-somaliland>.

- Establish a new Climate Finance Accelerator program to work in African countries to promote the flow of green finance and turn Nationally Determined Contributions into investible plans (GBP10 million of funding).
- Accelerate the creation of a coherent portfolio of climate compatible energy and transport infrastructure (GBP38 million of funding) and the award matching-grant funding through Innovate UK's Energy Catalyst to 29 projects developing clean energy innovations.
- Support a just transition to clean energy, through a Clean Energy Pacesetter initiative with Ethiopia, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Senegal, and work with South Africa through the UK PACT (Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions) program.
- Support testing labs for solar products ensuring that solar panels and appliances meet global standards and households have access to good quality, reliable clean energy (funding of GBP230,000).
- Continue to work with the industry to implement the UK's Green Finance Strategy. The Investment Association, whose members represent GBP8 trillion of assets under management, announced that its members will ask companies they invest in to report on their climate change impact by 2022.
- Support the Energy Commission of Nigeria to update its 2050 Calculator, an energy and emissions model that supports sustainable development planning (GBP60,000).
- Build 10,000 energy efficient, affordable homes in Kenya through UK Climate Investments (GBP30 million).
- Commit to work closely with African partners, alongside the African Development Bank, on how to meet energy needs across the continent through the accelerated uptake of renewable energy as a cleaner, cheaper alternative to coal power.
- Implement a new programme in Mozambique to increase domestic and business energy access through private sector innovation and investment, and an MOU between the UK and Guinea governments to support continued collaboration on responsible development of mineral resources (GBP40 million).

The UK government also announced that it will no longer provide any new direct official development assistance, investment, export credit or trade promotion support for thermal coal mining and coal power plants overseas.<sup>3797</sup>

The UK has provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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<sup>3797</sup> UK Government Statement, UK Government 20 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020.  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/859314/2020\\_01\\_20\\_AIS\\_-\\_UK\\_Government\\_Statement\\_-\\_Final\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/859314/2020_01_20_AIS_-_UK_Government_Statement_-_Final_Version.pdf).

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

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

According to the data, provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in fiscal years 2019-2020 the Agency funded 198 energy-related activities in low-income countries. The USAID financing for these projects amounts to USD307 million. The activities funded by the USAID cover all five of the SDG 7 targets. The information on the launch dates of the new activities in fiscal years 2019-2020 is unavailable.<sup>3798</sup>

The United States provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to support developing countries in their efforts to advance progress towards implementing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 on affordable and clean energy.

On 22 November 2019, the European Investment Bank (EIB) signed three loans supporting projects in Belarus. A EUR90 million loan will finance the replacement of obsolete gas-fired boilers with biomass boilers capable of producing around 1,000 GWh/year of renewable energy instead of using fossil fuel. The project also involves the upgrade of district heating systems through the installation of new peak boilers and the modernisation of grids in all six Belarus regions (oblasts). Furthermore, the EIB loan — provided under the European Union's EU4Energy Programme — will support thermal renovation of multi-apartment buildings with a total floor area of 500,000 square metres. This will help to significantly cut the housing sector's energy consumption, resulting in energy savings of around 60 GW/year, and reduce dependence on imported fuel. Overall, the project will generate substantial environmental benefits with carbon dioxide savings and improve the well-being of Belarus's citizens.<sup>3799</sup>

On 27 and 28 November 2019, in Amman, international energy experts presented a concrete roadmap and technical solutions to Jordanian energy stakeholders to improve the country's electricity licensing procedures on one hand and to accelerate investment in the Jordanian storage system on the other hand. Organised over two days at the initiative of the Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators and in cooperation with the Jordanian Energy and Minerals Regulatory Commission, the workshop was meant to support and facilitate Jordan's major electricity market development.<sup>3800</sup>

On 29 November 2019, "Clean Energy for all Europeans" Package: Implications and Opportunities for the Mediterranean briefing was released. This briefing on the legislative package "Clean Energy for all Europeans" explores various options for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries to

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<sup>3798</sup> USAid Data Query, USAid (Washington) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://explorer.usaid.gov/query>.

<sup>3799</sup> Belarus: EIB supports energy efficiency and small businesses, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 22 November 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-321-eib-supports-energy-efficiency-and-small-businesses-in-belarus>

<sup>3800</sup> EU-funded Association of Mediterranean Energy Regulators helps Jordan reinforce its licensing procedures and regulate electricity storage, EU Neighbors (Brussels) 28 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/eu-funded-association-mediterranean-energy-regulators-helps-jordan>

cooperate with European Union members. The focus of cooperation options is in the area of deploying renewable energy sources, interconnections and electricity market integration.<sup>3801</sup>

On 12 December 2019, the EIB approved EUR8.1 billion of new financing for climate action, sustainable development, health, and education investment across Europe and around the world. This included support for large and small-scale renewable energy projects, for the development of electric vehicles, and for improving the energy efficiency of homes. The EIB agreed new financing to support a new large-scale wind farm in the North Sea and the expansion of electricity distribution in western Nepal to enable remote communities to benefit from hydropower. New renewable energy projects including hydropower and wind farms across Brazil will also be supported by the EIB.<sup>3802</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Union agreed a new EUR50 million program of financial guarantees aimed at scaling up investment in renewable energy in Ukraine and in the EU's Southern Neighbourhood with a particular focus on Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia. This is the first EBRD guarantee program to receive funding through the EU External Investment Plan, an EU initiative launched in 2017 with the aim to attract more investment, especially from businesses and private investors, into countries neighbouring the EU and in Africa.<sup>3803</sup>

On 27 February 2020, the EIB signed a EUR18 million loan agreement with the Latvian National Promotional Institution Altum to finance energy efficiency projects by Latvian companies. The financing is complemented by a EUR3 million guarantee under the Private Finance for Energy Efficiency instrument, provided by the European Union.<sup>3804</sup>

On 18 March 2020, EU4Energy launched a project to support Moldova in developing a Monitoring and Verification Platform. The web-based tool will help Moldovan authorities measure progress towards energy efficiency targets and calculate energy savings.<sup>3805</sup>

The European Union provided assistance to developing countries in meeting all five SDG 7 targets.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>3801</sup> "Clean Energy for all Europeans" Package: Implications and Opportunities for the Mediterranean, EU Neighbors (Brussels) 29 November 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/publications/clean-energy-all-europeans-package-implications-and-opportunities>

<sup>3802</sup> EIB approves EUR 8.1 billion for renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transport, and agriculture, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 12 December 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-357-eib-approves-eur-81-billion-for-renewable-energy-energy-efficiency-sustainable-transport-and-agriculture>

<sup>3803</sup> EBRD and EU agree €50 million financial guarantee to boost renewable energy in EU Neighbourhood, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (London) 22 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <https://www.ebrd.com/news/2020/ebrd-and-eu-agree-50-million-financial-guarantee-to-boost-renewable-energy-in-eu-neighbourhood.html>

<sup>3804</sup> Altum and EIB join forces for energy efficiency investments in Latvia, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_329](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_329)

<sup>3805</sup> EU4Energy supports Moldova in tracking energy efficiency progress, European Neighbours (Brussels) 18 March 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/eu4energy-supports-moldova-tracking-energy-efficiency-progress>

## 14. Development: Investment in Human Capital

“We reaffirm our commitment to invest in human capital...[as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.]”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil		0	
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia			+1
Italy			+1
Japan			+1
Korea		0	
Mexico			+1
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

### Background

At the 2019 Osaka Summit G20 leaders collectively committed to improving education around the world by investing in human capital as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.<sup>3806</sup> The background section of this compliance report presents past actions undertaken by the G20 and other institutions of global governance to address and invest in human capital.

At 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders referenced human capital for the first time, committing to “important cross-cutting actions related to multi-dimensional partnerships, supporting developing countries and improving skills and human capital.”<sup>3807</sup> They also adopted the G20 Blueprint on

<sup>3806</sup> Statement by Alice Albright welcoming the G20 leaders’ declaration and focus on education, Global Partnership for Education (Washington) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/news-and-media/news/statement-alice-albright-welcoming-g20-leaders-declaration-and-focus-education>

<sup>3807</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communique: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communique.html>

Innovative Growth, which recognized “improving skills and human capital” as a cross-sectoral issue that “require[s] particular attention and a coordinated approach.”<sup>3808</sup>

On 5 November 2018, a workshop hosted by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme discussed support for G20 members and their implementation of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>3809</sup> One of the workshop’s four sessions was dedicated to human capital investment. The workshop emphasized coordination across G20 working groups and work streams to advance the agenda of human capital investment, particularly in relation to the G20’s existing efforts in the issue domains of future of work and digital economy. The workshop concluded that investing in human capital should also take into account factors such as gender perspectives, health outcomes, and youth and social protection policies.<sup>3810</sup>

On 1 December 2018, at the G20 Buenos Aires Summit, G20 leaders emphasized the importance of human capital in the launch of the G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development.<sup>3811</sup> G20 leaders committed to “stand ready to join all stakeholders in enhancing quality and sustainably financed early childhood programs that consider the multidimensional approach of ECD [early childhood development] as means of building human capital to break the cycle of intergenerational and structural poverty, and of reducing inequalities, especially where young children are most vulnerable.”<sup>3812</sup>

Other international organizations have established initiatives and programs to invest in and assess human capital. Notably, in 2017, the World Bank announced its Human Capital Project, which seeks to “create the political space for national leaders to prioritize transformational human capital investments.”<sup>3813</sup> This announcement was followed by the launch of the Human Capital Index in October 2018.<sup>3814</sup> The Project further engages individual countries and provides metrics of measurement and research with regards to education and health outcomes.<sup>3815</sup>

In December 2016, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe published its “Guide on Measuring Human Capital.”<sup>3816</sup> This guide seeks to help governments understand and quantify indicators of human capital, such as the functioning of labour markets and measurements of output and productivity performance in the education sector. The publication discusses “conceptual,

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<sup>3808</sup> G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth (Hangzhou), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-blueprint.html>

<sup>3809</sup> OECD-UNDP G20 Workshop Summary Report, OECD (Paris) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary\\_report\\_OECD\\_UNDP\\_G20\\_Workshop\\_2018.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary_report_OECD_UNDP_G20_Workshop_2018.pdf)

<sup>3810</sup> OECD-UNDP G20 Workshop Summary Report, OECD (Paris) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary\\_report\\_OECD\\_UNDP\\_G20\\_Workshop\\_2018.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary_report_OECD_UNDP_G20_Workshop_2018.pdf)

<sup>3811</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3812</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3813</sup> About the Human Capital Project, The World Bank (Washington) Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/about-hcp>

<sup>3814</sup> About the Human Capital Project, The World Bank (Washington) Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital/brief/about-hcp>

<sup>3815</sup> Human Capital Project, The World Bank (Washington) Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/human-capital>

<sup>3816</sup> Publications — Guide on Measuring Human Capital, UNECE, (Geneva) December 2016. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44704>



methodological and implementation issues and challenges” across country-specific and international comparative contexts.<sup>3817</sup>

The G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development was adopted at the 2019 G20 Osaka Summit as a supplement to the leaders’ declaration.<sup>3818</sup> The Initiative was championed by the G20 Development Working Group with a thematic focus on “quality education for creating inclusive, resilient and innovative societies.”<sup>3819</sup> This G20 Initiative was later further welcomed by the joint communiqué of G7 Ministers of Education and International Development on 5 July 2019.<sup>3820</sup>

The present G20 commitment to invest in human capital and highlight the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development builds upon pledges made at previous G20 summits and in the international community. At its core, this commitment represents the G20’s pledge to invest in people. Skills development and socio-economic wellbeing are inextricably tied to economic productivity, and investing in human capital has profound implications for improved outcomes in health, income, employment, technological innovation and social inclusion.

### **Commitment Features**

In the G20 Osaka declaration, G20 leaders “reaffirmed [their] commitment to invest in human capital ... [as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.]”<sup>3821</sup> This document particularly centres on “promot[ing] inclusive and equitable quality education for all.”<sup>3822</sup>

“Reaffirm” is defined as the act of “affirm[ing] again,” whereby affirm is “to assert strongly, state as fact, confirm or ratify a judgment.”<sup>3823</sup> The word “reaffirm” qualifies this G20 commitment as a “politically binding” criterion.<sup>3824</sup> This term establishes the threshold of action for compliance with this commitment.<sup>3825</sup> Verbal affirmations of human capital investment, particularly the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, thus partially make up a G20 member’s compliance with this commitment. Further examples include engaging bilateral and multilateral forums or holding meetings and discussions to share best practices with other countries.

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<sup>3817</sup> Publications — Guide on Measuring Human Capital, UNECE, (Geneva) December 2016. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=44704>

<sup>3818</sup> G20 Osaka Summit (Summary of Outcome), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000506254.pdf>

<sup>3819</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3820</sup> Joint Communiqué of the G7 Ministers of Education and International Development (Paris) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/dev/2019-education-and-development.pdf>

<sup>3821</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.cfa/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>3822</sup> The 2019 G20 Osaka Summit Commitments, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/analysis/commitments-19-osaka.html>

<sup>3823</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

<sup>3824</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

<sup>3825</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

“Invest” is understood to mean putting resources, effort or time into something to get an advantage.<sup>3826</sup> “Human capital” is defined by the OECD as “knowledge, skills, competencies and attributes embodied in individuals that facilitate the creation of personal, social and economic well-being.”<sup>3827</sup> The concept of human capital also refers to the “quality of the workforce,” which is closely connected to levels of education, standards of health and the labour force’s contributions to economic growth.<sup>3828</sup>

The present G20 commitment references the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, which contains three sections: 1) quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, 2) education for creating innovation, and 3) education for resilient and inclusive future.<sup>3829</sup> The phrase “as emphasized” suggests the significance of the G20 Initiative, which will guide the analysis for assessing compliance with this commitment.

The G20 Initiative begins by highlighting the need to invest in “quality education, with a particular emphasis on developing and low and middle-income countries.”<sup>3830</sup> Two key elements in this commitment are noteworthy: 1) education and 2) accessibility of education to marginalized or vulnerable populations. First, education sits at the core of this commitment, and it is understood to encompass “lifelong learning opportunities for all, starting at an early age and that encompass formal, non-formal and informal learning.”<sup>3831</sup> Second, noting the G20 Initiative’s focus on marginalized communities, such demographics can refer to (but are not limited to) women and girls, the elderly, children, migrants, disabled populations, those living in conflict regions and more.<sup>3832</sup> For this assessment, these groups are the primary target audience of human capital investment.

The first pillar of the G20 Initiative, “quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth,” discusses ECD and basic education with particular emphasis on marginalized and disadvantaged groups.<sup>3833</sup> The second pillar, “education for creating innovation,” focuses on skill-based and vocational training relating to the future of work, the fourth industrial revolution and education for innovation. The third pillar, “education for resilient and inclusive future,” shares the previous two pillars’ emphasis on gender minorities and marginalized communities.<sup>3834</sup> The third section further elaborates on the need to provide quality education for individuals with disabilities, those living in conflict contexts, and hard-to-reach groups.<sup>3835</sup>

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<sup>3826</sup> Invest, Cambridge Dictionary (Cambridge) Access Date: 17 November 2019.

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/invest>

<sup>3827</sup> The Value of People, OECD Insights: Human Capital, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 20 February 2007. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/insights/37967294.pdf>

<sup>3828</sup> The Value of People, OECD Insights: Human Capital, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Paris) 20 February 2007. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.oecd.org/insights/37967294.pdf>

<sup>3829</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3830</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3831</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3832</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3833</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3834</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

<sup>3835</sup> G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development, G20 (Osaka) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex\\_10.pdf](https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/g20/osaka19/pdf/documents/en/annex_10.pdf)

Actions that count towards compliance refer to government measures that invest in human capital according to the meaning used in the G20 Initiative. Examples include financial contributions by G20 members to support early child education or educational achievement in minority or marginalized demographics. Such measures can take the form of public provision or subsidization of education; alternatively, digital skills, language training, or professional preparatory courses.<sup>3836</sup> Other examples include the establishment of vocational programs, enterprise-based training or public labour market schemes.<sup>3837</sup> Additionally, investment in human capital by G20 members can seek to assess the quality and quantity of skills available, develop a coherent human capital policy, and measure human capital investment outcomes.<sup>3838</sup>

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member must invest in human capital as outlined by all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development: 1) quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, 2) education for creating innovation, and 3) education for resilient and inclusive future. As the commitment text declares specifically an investment (i.e., some form of financial investment) in human capital, verbal affirmations of any such investment alone will only count as partial compliance with the commitment. If a G20 member's efforts support one or two of the three aforementioned pillars, the G20 member will be awarded partial compliance. Non-compliance will be attributed to G20 members that fail to demonstrate the reaffirmation of the commitment to invest in human capital, i.e., G20 members that support none of the three pillars outlined in the G20 Initiative.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does not invest in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, education for creating innovation, or education for resilient and inclusive future.
0	G20 member invests in one or two of the following: quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth OR education for creating innovation OR education for resilient and inclusive future.
+1	G20 member invests in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth AND education for creating innovation AND education for resilient and inclusive future.

*Compliance Director: Angela Min Yi Hou  
Lead Analyst: Diego Vasquez*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

<sup>3836</sup> Investment in Human Capital — Assessing the Efficiency of Public Spending on Education, European Commission (Brussels) 6 November 2017. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31409/investment-in-human-capital\\_eurogroup\\_31102017\\_ares.pdf](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31409/investment-in-human-capital_eurogroup_31102017_ares.pdf)

<sup>3837</sup> Human Capital Investment: An International Comparison, OECD iLibrary — Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (Paris) 4 May 1998. Access Date: 17 November 2019. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/9789264162891-en.pdf>

<sup>3838</sup> OECD-UNDP G20 Workshop Summary Report, OECD (Paris) 5 November 2018. Access Date: 17 November 2019. [http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary\\_report\\_OECD\\_UNDP\\_G20\\_Workshop\\_2018.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/dev/Summary_report_OECD_UNDP_G20_Workshop_2018.pdf)

On 23 December 2019, the Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta and Secretary of Education Adriana Puiggrós met with President of the Argentine Episcopal Conference and Bishop of San Isidro Monsignor Oscar Ojea. The parties discussed the dire educational situation in Argentina.<sup>3839</sup>

On 23 December 2019, Secretary for Education Cooperation and Priority Actions of the Ministry of Education Pablo Gentili met with Spanish Secretary of State for Cooperation for Ibero-America Juan Pablo de Laiglesia in Madrid.<sup>3840</sup> The parties discussed the planned expansion of cooperative policies and shared a joint vision in education, science, and culture.<sup>3841</sup>

On 30 December 2019, President Alberto Fernandez presented the National Reading Plan, which aims to reach 10 million children and adolescents in primary and secondary education.<sup>3842</sup> The plan endeavors to match the number of days children read with the number of school days in the year.<sup>3843</sup>

On 17 January 2020, Minister of Education Nicolás Trotta met with Minister of Public Works Gabriel Katopodis. They worked on a plan for educational infrastructure, specifically focusing on building schools and universities.<sup>3844</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Minister Trotta met with the Ambassador of France in Argentina Mariá Claudia Scherer-Effosse to discuss joint cooperation on an education agenda.<sup>3845</sup> The proposed agenda seeks to develop educational, scientific and cultural fields in line with a new education law in France, which aims to increase the inclusion of vulnerable students.<sup>3846</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Minister Trotta met with Governor of Santa Cruz province Alicia Kirchner. They agreed to work together and enhance educational programs in the province by expanding educational accessibility.<sup>3847</sup>

On 4 February 2020, Minister Trotta signed collaboration agreements to implement the National Reading Plan in Rosario. The plan aims to distribute and democratize knowledge as well as improve

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<sup>3839</sup> The Ministry of Education and the Episcopal Conference agreed on joint actions, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-y-la-conferencia-episcopal-acordaron-acciones-conjuntas>

<sup>3840</sup> Educational cooperation projects between Argentina and Spain, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/proyectos-de-cooperacion-educativa-entre-argentina-y-espana>

<sup>3841</sup> Educational cooperation projects between Argentina and Spain, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/proyectos-de-cooperacion-educativa-entre-argentina-y-espana>

<sup>3842</sup> The Government launched the National Reading Plan, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-el-plan-nacional-de-lecturas>

<sup>3843</sup> The Government launched the National Reading Plan, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 30 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-lanzo-el-plan-nacional-de-lecturas>

<sup>3844</sup> Trotta and Katopodis design an educational infrastructure plan, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-y-katopodis-disenan-un-plan-de-infraestructura-educativa>

<sup>3845</sup> The Ministry of Education and the French Embassy work on an educational agenda, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-y-la-embajada-de-francia-trabajan-en-una-agenda-educativa>

<sup>3846</sup> The Ministry of Education and the French Embassy work on an educational agenda, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-y-la-embajada-de-francia-trabajan-en-una-agenda-educativa>

<sup>3847</sup> The Minister of Education and the Governor of Santa Cruz agreed actions focused on the province, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-de-educacion-y-la-gobernadora-de-santa-cruz-acordaron-acciones-enfocadas-en-la>

teaching and the learning process.<sup>3848</sup> This plan is part of the government's aim to impact 10 million adolescents and their families.<sup>3849</sup>

On 5 February 2020, Minister Trotta met with composer Juan Falu to restart the Cajita de Música Argentina program, which aims at delivering multimedia materials for musical education.<sup>3850</sup>

On 17 February 2020, Minister Trotta met with President of the Honourable Chamber of Deputies Sergio Massa to work together and improve educational quality. They outlined an agenda focusing on constructing inclusive schools, school infrastructure, and educational evaluation.<sup>3851</sup>

On 18 February 2020, Minister Trotta met with Governor of Tucumán Juan Luis Manzur. They discussed the work required to improve educational infrastructure and recognized the need for building renovations and the construction of new establishments. They reaffirmed the goal of improving education quality in the province and making school more inclusive to both boys and girls.<sup>3852</sup>

On 19 February 2020, Minister Trotta and Governor of Santiago del Estero Gerardo Zamora signed an agreement to guarantee the payment of the compulsory fund owed by the previous administrations. This serves to benefit 7,000 teachers.<sup>3853</sup>

On 27 February 2020, Minister Trotta and Governor of Salta Gustavo Sáenz agreed to build three schools in Salta. The schools will be funded by the Ministry and located in rural communities.<sup>3854</sup> This agreement will also expand educational infrastructure, making access to education easier for both boys and girls. Furthermore, both officials agreed to broaden the curriculum by implementing sex education in the province.<sup>3855</sup>

On 28 February 2020, Minister Trotta met with Minister of Health Ginés González García to reinforcing disease prevention through the educational structure. They further agreed to introduce joint campaigns on vaccination, sexual education, and links with university careers and the health

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<sup>3848</sup> Trotta and Perotti presented the National Reading Plan in Rosario, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-y-perotti-presentaron-el-plan-nacional-de-lecturas-en-rosario>

<sup>3849</sup> Trotta and Perotti presented the National Reading Plan in Rosario, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-y-perotti-presentaron-el-plan-nacional-de-lecturas-en-rosario>

<sup>3850</sup> Music Box: a program of the Ministries of Education and Culture, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/cajita-de-musica-un-programa-de-los-ministerios-de-educacion-y-cultura>

<sup>3851</sup> Trotta and Massa met to work educational laws, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-y-massa-se-reunieron-para-trabajar-leyes-educativas>

<sup>3852</sup> Trotta and Manzur met to work on the infrastructure of the Tucuman schools, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/trotta-y-manzur-se-reunieron-para-trabajar-en-la-infraestructura-de-las-escuelas-tucumanas>

<sup>3853</sup> The Ministry of Education signed an agreement with Santiago del Estero, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-firmo-convenio-con-santiago-del-estero>

<sup>3854</sup> Minister Trotta and Governor Sáenz agreed on joint lines of work, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-trotta-y-el-gobernador-saenz-acordaron-lineas-de-trabajo-conjunto>

<sup>3855</sup> Minister Trotta and Governor Sáenz agreed on joint lines of work, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministro-trotta-y-el-gobernador-saenz-acordaron-lineas-de-trabajo-conjunto>

industry.<sup>3856</sup> In hopes of increasing public health awareness, the parties reaffirmed that better health entails better education, and vice versa, better education entails better health.<sup>3857</sup>

On 5 March 2020, Minister Trotta met with Regional Director of the Latin American and the Caribbean Open Society Foundation Pedro Abramovay to discuss university policies. They reaffirmed the understanding that universities are a space for the defense and protection of human rights through national, regional and global perspectives.<sup>3858</sup> Furthermore, both agreed to cooperate in upholding equal conditions and opportunities in education and other public care policies.<sup>3859</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Minister Trotta implemented the new Secondary School Completion Plan (FinEs) in an effort to help people over the age of 18 complete primary and secondary education.<sup>3860</sup> The plan also aims to assist those in their final year of secondary education who lack the necessary requirements to graduate.<sup>3861</sup>

On 12 March 2020, Minister Trotta met with Secretary of Education Adrianna Puiggrós at the first Federal Planning Table.<sup>3862</sup> The meeting sought to bring together leaders in education and discuss educational planning and innovation, educational management and quality, and social and cultural education.<sup>3863</sup>

On 16 March 2020, Minister Trotta presented the program of continuing education, which aims to resume education in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will present online resources such as self-learning resources, suggestions for families and teachers, films, interviews, educational and communication proposals through social networks and videoconferencing tools, proposals for free time and an online events agenda.<sup>3864</sup> Additionally, the Ministry of Education worked with telecommunications providers to ensure that browsing the sites will not cost money nor consume data, allowing students unrestricted access to education during the outbreak.<sup>3865</sup>

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<sup>3856</sup> Education and Health agree on joint programs, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-salud-acuerdan-programas-conjuntos>

<sup>3857</sup> Education and Health agree on joint programs, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-y-salud-acuerdan-programas-conjuntos>

<sup>3858</sup> The Ministry of Education and the Open Society Foundation agreed on joint projects, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-y-la-fundacion-open-society-acordaron-proyectos-en-conjunto>

<sup>3859</sup> The Ministry of Education and the Open Society Foundation agreed on joint projects, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-y-la-fundacion-open-society-acordaron-proyectos-en-conjunto>

<sup>3860</sup> The Ministry of Education continues the FinEs Plan and announces new lines of work, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-da-continuidad-al-plan-fines-y-anuncia-nuevas-lineas-de-trabajo>

<sup>3861</sup> The Ministry of Education continues the FinEs Plan and announces new lines of work, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-da-continuidad-al-plan-fines-y-anuncia-nuevas-lineas-de-trabajo>

<sup>3862</sup> The first Federal Planning Table was held, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-la-primera-mesa-federal-de-planeamiento>

<sup>3863</sup> The first Federal Planning Table was held, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-realizo-la-primera-mesa-federal-de-planeamiento>

<sup>3864</sup> The Ministry of Education presented the program Continuing Educating, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-presento-el-programa-seguimos-educando>

<sup>3865</sup> The Ministry of Education presented the program Continuing Educating, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-presento-el-programa-seguimos-educando>

On 17 March 2020, Minister Trotta announced that 20 online courses will be enabled for teachers to facilitate the mediation of information and communication technologies. These courses aim to assist 900,000 teachers in the transition to online classes, while maintaining quality education for Argentina's youth.<sup>3866</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Minister Trotta agreed to a 16 per cent salary increase for university non-teaching workers, noting that the maintenance of university operations is vital to facilitating universities' role in enabling social mobility in the most neglected sectors.<sup>3867</sup> This agreement also compensates workers for the following four months of expected inflation, due to the economic situation inherited from the previous administration.<sup>3868</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the National Ministry of Education signed an agreement with Globant and Acámica, a software development company and a technology academy, respectively. The agreement confirms that Globant and Acámica will assist with delivering online courses at no cost, in an effort to promote digital skills and an entrepreneurship mindset.<sup>3869</sup> The courses will be offered through a platform owned by the Ministry of Education.<sup>3870</sup>

On 15 April 2020, the National Ministry of Education established a partnership with Encyclopaedia Britannica, which will use its digital learning and teachers' development program solutions to inspire students and empower teachers.<sup>3871</sup>

On 27 April 2020, the National Ministry of Education signed an agreement with mayors from the province of Buenos Aires to provide more than 135,000 netbooks and tablets to students with the aim of improving access to technology.<sup>3872</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the National Ministry of Education held a virtual meeting to discuss the launch of a connectivity program to supply computers, internet connection and a free educational platform to Argentinean students.<sup>3873</sup>

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<sup>3866</sup> INFoD offers virtual training for teachers of all levels and modalities in the country, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-infod-ofrece-formacion-virtual-para-docentes-de-todos-los-niveles-y-modalidades-del-pais>

<sup>3867</sup> Joint agreement with university non-teachers, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acuerdo-paritario-con-los-no-docentes-universitarios-0>

<sup>3868</sup> Joint agreement with university non-teachers, Gobierno de Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/acuerdo-paritario-con-los-no-docentes-universitarios-0>

<sup>3869</sup> Globant and Acámica join the We Continue Educating program to promote digital skills, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/globant-y-acamica-se-suman-al-programa-seguimos-educando-para-promover-habilidades>

<sup>3870</sup> Globant and Acámica join the We Continue Educating program to promote digital skills, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/globant-y-acamica-se-suman-al-programa-seguimos-educando-para-promover-habilidades>

<sup>3871</sup> The Ministry of Education and Encyclopedia Britannica associate to allow distance learning, iProfesional (Buenos Aires) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.iprofesional.com/tecnologia/313826-ministerio-de-educacion-y-enciclopedia-britannica-se-asocian-para-el-aprendizaje>

<sup>3872</sup> The Ministry of Education signs agreements for the delivery of 135 thousand netbooks and tablets, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-suscribe-convenios-para-la-entrega-de-135-mil-netbooks-y-tablets>

<sup>3873</sup> The Ministry of Education of the Nation advances in the Federal Plan of Connectivity, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-educacion-de-la-nacion-avanza-en-el-plan-federal-de-conectividad>

On 22 May 2020, the national government repatriated USD21 million that the state deposited with the International Monetary Fund to reduce the digital gap during COVID-19.<sup>3874</sup> This fund will be used to acquire 70,000 computers under the Federal Connectivity Program “Juana Manso.”<sup>3875</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>3876</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the National Ministry of Education announced the opening of a selection procedure to donate books for primary and secondary schools within the framework of a National Reading Plan.<sup>3877</sup> This plan follows an investment of ARS400 million aimed at purchasing 1 million books.<sup>3878</sup>

Argentina fully complied with this commitment by investing in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Specifically, Argentina invested in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth through its efforts to address educational accessibility, early childhood development, and capacity-development of teachers. Furthermore, Argentina invested in education for creating innovation, and contributed to education for resilient and inclusive futures through addressing the educational accessibility of hard-to-reach and vulnerable populations.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Harris Johnston, Diego Vasquez and Santiago Ardisson*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 18 July 2019, the government supplied AUD30.2 million to the Local Schools Community Fund. This increased funding aims to benefit students in Catholic and independent schools by funding small scale-projects.<sup>3879</sup>

On 19 August 2019, Minister for Education Dan Tehan launched an AUD93.7 million fund for the Destination Australia Program. This funding aims to support regional tertiary education providers by

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<sup>3874</sup> Argentina repatriated fund of US21 million to reduce digital gap, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-repatrion-fondos-por-us-21-millones-para-reducir-la-brecha-digital-en-medio-de-0>

<sup>3875</sup> Argentina repatriated fund of US21 million to reduce digital gap, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-repatrion-fondos-por-us-21-millones-para-reducir-la-brecha-digital-en-medio-de-0>

<sup>3876</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>3877</sup> Education opened bidding of ARS400 million to purchase books, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-abre-licitacion-por-400-millones-de-pesos-para-la-compra-de-libros-destinados>

<sup>3878</sup> Education opened bidding of ARS400 million to purchase books, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/educacion-abre-licitacion-por-400-millones-de-pesos-para-la-compra-de-libros-destinados>

<sup>3879</sup> Local Schools Community Fund Guidelines — 2019, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://docs.education.gov.au/node/52944>



offering high quality education to domestic and international students.<sup>3880</sup> This program allows tertiary providers, including that of vocational education and training, to apply for funding that facilitates increased domestic and international study in regional Australia. Scholarships are valued at AUD15,000 per student per year.<sup>3881</sup>

On 28 August 2019, Minister Tehan announced that the government will create a University Foreign Interference Taskforce to provide better protection against foreign intervention in the university sector.<sup>3882</sup> The taskforce will comprise of a committee and working groups that focus on cyber-security, research and intellectual property, foreign collaboration, and culture and communications. The taskforce will bring together universities and the government to develop guidelines based on potential risks, and further foster world-class research.<sup>3883</sup>

On 5 September 2019, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (AESE) initiated a research project to share the experiences and case studies of Australian educators who have provided or are providing education and training in Indonesia.<sup>3884</sup> The goal of the project is to outline models of engagement and regulatory settings across all sectors, and further assist Australia's ongoing efforts to advance education services in Indonesia.<sup>3885</sup>

On 23 September 2019, the AESE announced the establishment of up to 60 medical Commonwealth Support Places (CSPs). Hosted at universities and higher education providers, CSPs are partially subsidized by the government. They are drawn from existing university allocations in three-year intervals, redistributing between universities to support key health workplace priorities. In 2021, CSPs are also expected to support the development of a rural and regional medical workforce.<sup>3886</sup>

On 1 November 2019, Minister Tehan announced that 35 higher education and vocational education providers will make 1,200 scholarships available to international and domestic students.<sup>3887</sup> The

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<sup>3880</sup> Destination Australia open for applications, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/destination-australia-open-applications>

<sup>3881</sup> Destination Australia open for applications, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/destination-australia-open-applications>

<sup>3882</sup> Establishment of a University Foreign Interference Taskforce, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/establishment-university-foreign-interference-taskforce>

<sup>3883</sup> Establishment of a University Foreign Interference Taskforce, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/establishment-university-foreign-interference-taskforce>

<sup>3884</sup> Stronger Education Partnerships, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/stronger-education-partnerships>

<sup>3885</sup> Stronger Education Partnerships, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/stronger-education-partnerships>

<sup>3886</sup> Redistribution pool of medical places — Discussion Paper, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/redistribution-pool-medical-places-discussion-paper>

<sup>3887</sup> Available now: Scholarships to study in regional Australia, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/available-now-scholarships-study-regional-australia>

AUD93.7 million Destination Australia program now features 84 locations aimed at developing regional tertiary education institutions and offering high-quality learning experiences.<sup>3888</sup>

On 7 November 2019, Minister Tehan announced that the government will provide an additional AUD20 million in funding through the Special Circumstances Fund. This funding aims to support non-governmental schools facing financial difficulties during ongoing drought conditions.<sup>3889</sup>

On 3 December 2019, the AESE launched the new ComparED website, which provides information about Australian higher education institutions for prospective students.<sup>3890</sup> This will allow recent secondary school graduates, prospective mature students, and those transitioning from vocational training to compare over 100 institutions.<sup>3891</sup>

As of 9 January 2020, Minister Tehan is inviting comments on proposed amendments to the Higher Education Support Act 2003. The amendments call for specific language with regards to the freedom of speech, in order to prevent current legal ambiguity from restricting the freedom of expression.<sup>3892</sup>

As of 17 January 2020, the government announced support for bush-fire affected communities. This includes AUD8 million in mental health support for early childhood education and school communities, AUD5 million to expand the Community Child Care Fund and Child Care Subsidy activity test exemption, and an additional AUD400 in payment for children and 1100 scholarships for regional students. The goal of this increased funding is to promote healthy resettlement of affected communities by alleviating financial burdens and supplying support staff.<sup>3893</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the government responded to the Senate Select Committee on Red Tape Report with regards to the effects of regulatory barriers on private education. The government reaffirmed its commitment to reducing red tape and regulatory burdens through cooperating with

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<sup>3888</sup> Available now: Scholarships to study in regional Australia, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/available-now-scholarships-study-regional-australia>

<sup>3889</sup> 2019/20 Drought Relief — funding for non-government schools, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/201920-drought-relief-funding-non-government-schools>

Draft 2020 Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) Specifications released, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 2 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/draft-2020-higher-education-research-data-collection-herdc-specifications-released>

<sup>3890</sup> ComparED: Making informed decisions about future study options, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/compared-making-informed-decisions-about-future-study-options>

<sup>3891</sup> ComparED: Making informed decisions about future study options, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/compared-making-informed-decisions-about-future-study-options>

<sup>3892</sup> Consultation on free speech amendments to the Higher Education Support Act, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/consultation-free-speech-amendments-higher-education-support-act>

Report of the Independent Review of Freedom of Speech in Australian Higher Education Providers, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 March 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. [https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/report\\_of\\_the\\_independent\\_review\\_of\\_freedom\\_of\\_speech\\_in\\_australian\\_higher\\_education\\_providers\\_march\\_2019.pdf](https://docs.education.gov.au/system/files/doc/other/report_of_the_independent_review_of_freedom_of_speech_in_australian_higher_education_providers_march_2019.pdf)

<sup>3893</sup> Support for bushfire-affected communities, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 January 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://education.govcms.gov.au/support-bushfire-affected-communities#MentalHealthSupport>

Support for bushfire-affected families, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.education.gov.au/news/support-bushfire-affected-families>

state and territorial governments to deliver national policies and programs under Australia's Deregulation Agenda.<sup>3894</sup>

On 24 February 2020, the Higher Education Panel invited stakeholder comments on a consultation paper regarding draft amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework (2015). The amendments addressed efforts to improve the functionality of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standard Agency and clarify the categories of providers in Australia's higher education sector.<sup>3895</sup>

As of 27 February 2020, the government hired the Centre for Program Evaluation at the University of Melbourne Graduate School of Education to prepare the Teaching Practice Evaluation Framework. The framework provides guidance for the implementation of teacher evaluation systems to promote professional development in schools.<sup>3896</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the AESE hosted a free webcast to inform childcare providers and services of support mechanisms to assist the early childhood education sector in managing the impacts of COVID-19.<sup>3897</sup>

On 6 May 2020, Minister Tehan announced an extension of preschool funding to 2021, totalling AUD425.3 million.<sup>3898</sup> The program will provide 350,000 children in 11,000 preschool services with 600 hours of preschool to prepare them for enrollment in full-time school.<sup>3899</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment announced its review of the Disabilities Standards for Education 2005. These standards entail the legal obligations of education authorities — including institutions of preschool, school, vocational education and training, and higher education — to ensure that students with disabilities can access and participate equally in education.<sup>3900</sup>

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<sup>3894</sup> Australian Government Response to the Senate Select Committee on Red Tape Report, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://education.govcms.gov.au/news/australian-government-response-senate-select-committee-red-tape-report> Departmental Document, Australian Government response to the Red Tape Committee report: Effect of red tape on private education, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://docs-edu.govcms.gov.au/node/53245>

<sup>3895</sup> Consultation on Amendments to the Higher Education Standards Framework Provider Category Standards, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://education.govcms.gov.au/news/consultation-amendments-higher-education-standards-framework-provider-category-standards>

<sup>3896</sup> Teaching Practice Evaluation Framework, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://education.govcms.gov.au/news/teaching-practice-evaluation-framework>

<sup>3897</sup> Watch our webcast for childcare providers and services about the support available to help manage the impacts of COVID-19, Australian Government — Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://education.govcms.gov.au/news/watch-our-webcast-child-care-providers-and-services-about-support-available-help-manage-impacts>

<sup>3898</sup> Preschool funding extended to 2021, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/preschool-funding-extended-2021>

<sup>3899</sup> Preschool funding extended to 2021, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/preschool-funding-extended-2021>

<sup>3900</sup> Review of the Disability Standards for Education 2005, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/2020-review-disability-standards-education-2005>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced the Job-Ready Graduates Package, which directs public investment towards higher education to produce more job-ready graduates.<sup>3901</sup> The package seeks to expand opportunities for regional, rural, and remote students and encourage university-industry collaboration.<sup>3902</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced its planned allocation of AUD10.2 million to establish a Higher Education Integrity Unit with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA). This collaboration will assist higher education providers in responding to threats to admission standards and information, academic and research integrity, student safety, cybersecurity, and further help schools identify foreign interference, fraud, and corruption.<sup>3903</sup> A further AUD2 million will be allocated to permit the TEQSA to resume operations of student records if a higher education provider ceases operations, allowing current and former students to access their records despite the closure of their higher education provider.<sup>3904</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced its plans for a more integrated tertiary system. Starting in 2021, approximately 50,000 higher education students who take out a FEE-HELP loan for an undergraduate fee-paying institution will have their loan fees reduced by 20 to 25 per cent.<sup>3905</sup> Furthermore, the government will work to push the recommendations of the Australian Qualification Framework Review through the National Cabinet Reform Committee. These efforts will establish pathways into tertiary education, create guidelines for improved credit recognition of micro-credentials and prior learning, and ensure that soft skills such as critical thinking and conflict resolution are included in the design of tertiary qualifications.<sup>3906</sup> In addition, the government will invest AUD4.3 million over three years in the creation of a new national online marketplace for micro-credentials, providing greater opportunities for students, workers, and employers to find learning options that assist with upskilling, reskilling, and lifetime learning.<sup>3907</sup> An additional AUD3.7 million over two years will be dispersed, starting in 2021, in order to expand the Innovative Industry 4.0 Advanced Apprenticeship Pilot into a two-year qualification, allowing students to continue from a one-year diploma to a two-year associate degree.<sup>3908</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced its redesign of the Commonwealth Grant Scheme to create a funding envelope for universities. This funding envelope seeks to address the cost of providing students with an adaptive university education, ensuring that courses are not over-funded

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<sup>3901</sup> Job-ready Graduates Program, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/job-ready-graduates-package>

<sup>3902</sup> Job-ready Graduates Program, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/job-ready-graduates-package>

<sup>3903</sup> Improving Transparency and Accountability, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/improving-transparency-and-accountability>

<sup>3904</sup> Improving Transparency and Accountability, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/improving-transparency-and-accountability>

<sup>3905</sup> Better Integrated Tertiary System, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-integrated-tertiary-system>

<sup>3906</sup> Better Integrated Tertiary System, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-integrated-tertiary-system>

<sup>3907</sup> Better Integrated Tertiary System, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-integrated-tertiary-system>

<sup>3908</sup> Better Integrated Tertiary System, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-integrated-tertiary-system>

or under-funded, further removing the incentive for universities to provide courses based on funding arrangements rather than responding to student demand.<sup>3909</sup>

On 19 June 2020, as part of the Job Ready Graduates Program, the government announced additional funding for Bachelor-level Commonwealth-supported regions in favor of regional and high-growth metropolitan areas.<sup>3910</sup> This announcement aims to encourage greater participation in higher education by providing the financial support necessary to overcome geographic obstacles.

On 19 June 2020, the government announced the introduction of the National Priorities and Industry Linkage Fund (NPILF) in 2021. This fund aims to encourage cooperation between industry and educational institutions.<sup>3911</sup>

On 19 June 2020, Minister Tehan announced AUD400 million in investment over the next four years to support regional campuses and increase opportunities for regional, rural, and remote students to attend university. Of this amount, AUD159.1 million will be allocated to tertiary access payments, and AUD21 million will be invested in establishing eight additional Regional University Centres and improving existing centres for remote students.<sup>3912</sup> Starting in 2021, the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program (HEPPP) will be reformed to provide greater support and access to tertiary education for remote students, allocating AUD7.1 million over four years to support activities that encourage regional enrollment.<sup>3913</sup> The package will further include an investment of AUD145 million in funding, disbursed over the next four years, to increase funding under the Commonwealth Grant Scheme.<sup>3914</sup> The government will also create a Regional Education Commissioner to manage implement efforts under the National Regional and Remote Tertiary Education Strategy.<sup>3915</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced its plans to encourage and support aboriginal and low-income students in pursuing and succeeding in higher education. The government will introduce demand-driven funding for aboriginal students by guaranteeing Commonwealth support when they are admitted to their university of choice.<sup>3916</sup> The government also announced its planned introduction of the Indigenous Regional and Low SES Attainment Fund (IRLSAF), which will

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<sup>3909</sup> Better University Funding Arrangements, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-university-funding-arrangements>

<sup>3910</sup> Better University Funding Arrangements, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-university-funding-arrangements>

<sup>3911</sup> Better University Funding Arrangements, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-university-funding-arrangements>

<sup>3912</sup> More Opportunities for Regional Students, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/more-opportunities-regional-australia>

<sup>3913</sup> More Opportunities for Regional Students, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/more-opportunities-regional-australia>

<sup>3914</sup> More Opportunities for Regional Students, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/more-opportunities-regional-australia>

<sup>3915</sup> More Opportunities for Regional Students, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/more-opportunities-regional-australia>

<sup>3916</sup> More Opportunities for Regional Students, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/more-opportunities-regional-australia>

combine the Higher Education Participation and Partnerships Program, regional loaning, and relevant elements of the National Institutes Grant to fund universities that offer support to indigenous, regional, and low-income students.<sup>3917</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government announced the creation of an AUD705 million transition fund. The fund will be distributed to universities to ensure that they maintain their revenue over the first three years of the implementation of the Job Ready Graduates Package.<sup>3918</sup>

On 13 July 2020, Minister Tehan announced AUD9.5 million in funding for the Mathematics Online Courses and Hub, which aims to provide nationally available, free mathematics and numeracy education. The hub also supports teachers in providing high-quality mathematics education across Australia's schools.<sup>3919</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>3920</sup>

Through its efforts to provide Australians with quality education, long-term strategies for vocational improvement, and accessible schooling for hard-to-reach demographics, Australia fully complied with this commitment by investing in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Harris Johnston*

### **Brazil: 0**

Brazil has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 11 July 2019, the Ministry of Education released its National Commitment for Basic Education initiative.<sup>3921</sup> As a part of this initiative, the Ministry of Education plans to open more than 4,000 nursery schools by 2022, improve internet accessibility in 6,500 schools in rural areas, and open 108

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<sup>3917</sup> Better University Funding Arrangements, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-university-funding-arrangements>

<sup>3918</sup> Better University Funding Arrangements, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.dese.gov.au/job-ready/better-university-funding-arrangements>

<sup>3919</sup> Work Commences on Developing Mathematics Online Teaching and Learning Resources, Australian Government: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (Canberra) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.education.gov.au/news/work-commences-developing-mathematics-online-teaching-and-learning-resources>

<sup>3920</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>3921</sup> Brazil to have 108 Civiv-Military Schools Implemented by 2023, Agência Brasil (Brasilia) 11 July 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/educacao/noticia/2019-07/brazil-have-108-civic-military-schools-implemented-2023>

civic-military schools by 2023. This initiative further aims at strengthening primary education in Brazil, defined as all grades up to high school.<sup>3922</sup>

On 8 April 2020, the National Council of Education (SESU) co-hosted a webinar with the World Bank Brazil Education team and the non-governmental organization All for Education. The webinar, entitled “Education in the Face of a Pandemic,” addressed the impact of the pandemic on students of a lower socioeconomic status and discussed plans to prevent an increase in dropout rates.<sup>3923</sup> The webinar also developed plans to “provide additional support to students with less opportunities for virtual learning.”<sup>3924</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Secretariat of Productivity, Employment and Competitiveness of the Ministry of Economy organized an event for start-up companies to present new tools for distance learning.<sup>3925</sup> The event intends to help students adapt to remote learning and modernize the education sector.<sup>3926</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>3927</sup>

Brazil partially complied with its commitment to the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Brazil strived for sustainable development and inclusive futures by supporting quality basic education and distance learning for socio-economically and geographically marginalized students. However, Brazil did not comply with the third pillar of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment, education for creating innovation.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Isabelle Buchanan and Yana Sadeghi*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>3922</sup> Brazil to have 108 Civiv-Military Schools Implemented by 2023, Agência Brasil (Brasilia) 11 July 2019. Access Date: 20 December 2019. <http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/educacao/noticia/2019-07/brazil-have-108-civic-military-schools-implemented-2023>

<sup>3923</sup> The impact of COVID-19 on education in Brazil, International Development Association (Brasilia) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2020/04/29/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-in-brazil>

<sup>3924</sup> The impact of COVID-19 on education in Brazil, International Development Association (Brasilia) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2020/04/29/the-impact-of-covid-19-on-education-in-brazil>

<sup>3925</sup> InovAtiva Conecta: event presents distance learning tools and healthcare for small businesses, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/maio/evento-online-da-sepec-e-sebrae-apresenta-ferramentas-de-ead-e-cuidados-com-a-saude-para-pequenos-negocios>

<sup>3926</sup> InovAtiva Conecta: event presents distance learning tools and healthcare for small businesses, Federal Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 29 August 2020. <https://www.gov.br/economia/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/maio/evento-online-da-sepec-e-sebrae-apresenta-ferramentas-de-ead-e-cuidados-com-a-saude-para-pequenos-negocios>

<sup>3927</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

On 31 July 2019, the government announced a CAD400 million commitment to women and girls' education in fragile, conflict and crisis situations, in support of the G7 Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls, Adolescent Girls and Women in Developing Countries.<sup>3928</sup>

On 12 August 2019, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Families, Children and Social Development Adam Vaughan and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Honourable Ahmed Hussen announced that seven early learning and child care innovation projects in the Greater Toronto Area are receiving approximately CAD1.8 million in funding. This funding will support innovative projects in early childhood education.<sup>3929</sup>

On 16 August 2019, Minister of International Development and Minister for Women and Gender Equality Maryam Monsef announced that the government is investing in four projects to engage men and boys in gender equality.<sup>3930</sup> Alberta Council of Women's Shelters will receive CAD212,000 to promote sports figures as role models and increase awareness of gender-based violence and healthy masculinity. Catalyst Canada will receive CAD100,000 to promote workplace inclusion and support men as disrupters of sexism in the workplace. FOXY, a non-profit organization that focuses on sexual health and empowered decision-making, will receive CAD125,000 to engage indigenous youth, particularly young men and boys, on gender equality in the Northwest Territories. Next Gen Men and the University of Calgary will receive CAD125,000 to build networks and spaces for pro-feminist male leaders.<sup>3931</sup>

On 20 August 2019, Minister Monsef announced that the government will invest CAD2 million in indigenous-led initiatives to engage indigenous youth on gender equality and build a more inclusive society by sharing ideas on how to advance gender equality.<sup>3932</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a CAD9 million investment to support the Incubator Network, which will generate sustainable jobs in India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. The employment opportunities will focus on waste management, particularly for women and marginalized populations, and support local governments, community organizations and the private sector.<sup>3933</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD30 million investment to establish a new School Feeding Programme for children and adolescents to increase attendance at the primary and

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<sup>3928</sup> Canada announces support to improve access to quality education for women and girls in fragile, conflict and crisis situations, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/07/canada-announces-support-to-improve-access-to-quality-education-for-women-and-girls-in-fragile-conflict-and-crisis-situations.html>

<sup>3929</sup> Seven new Government of Canada projects will support innovative practices in early learning and childcare in the Greater Toronto Area, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 12 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2019/08/seven-new-government-of-canada-projects-will-support-innovative-practices-in-early-learning-and-child-care-in-the-greater-toronto-area.html>

<sup>3930</sup> The Government of Canada invests in engaging men and boys in gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Calgary) 16 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/08/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-engaging-men-and-boys-in-gender-equality.html>

<sup>3931</sup> The Government of Canada invests in engaging men and boys in gender equality, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Calgary) 16 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/08/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-engaging-men-and-boys-in-gender-equality.html>

<sup>3932</sup> Government of Canada invests in Indigenous-led solutions for gender equality amongst youth, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 20 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-indigenous-led-solutions-for-gender-equality-amongst-youth.html>

<sup>3933</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>



secondary school levels. This investment will further improve learning conditions in displacement settings and address barriers to education and adequate nutrition faced by adolescent girls.<sup>3934</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD2 million investment to the Interagency Network on Education in Emergencies (INEE), an open global network of United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, donors, governments, universities, schools, and affected populations working together to ensure that all persons have the right to quality education in emergency situations and during post-crisis recovery.<sup>3935</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD9.5 million investment to Empowering Adolescent Girls to Learn and Earn (EAGLE) — Mozambique project. This funding will expand basic literacy, numeracy and skills development for 3,000 vulnerable, out-of-school adolescent girls, including adolescent mothers and those with disabilities or HIV/AIDS.<sup>3936</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD7 million investment to promote girls' rights to education by reducing gender disparities in schools and in family environments. The project will also offer innovative solutions in education to address vulnerabilities in Niger. This project will directly benefit up to 100,000 school-aged girls between seven to eighteen years old.<sup>3937</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD8.2 million investment in School Reintegration for Child Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in the provinces of South and North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This funding will support the reintegration of child survivors of SGBV into a safer school system in conflict-affected and marginalized communities in North and South Kivu.<sup>3938</sup> More than 14,000 girls and 14,000 boys aged 6 to 16, including 720 female and 180 male survivors of SGBV, will directly benefit from the project.<sup>3939</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD10 million investment in the Equal Access to Education project in Cameroon. This project will promote educational inclusion for girls and children aged 4-15, in particular those who have disabilities and those who live in regions affected by humanitarian crises in the Far North, Littoral and West regions of Cameroon. The project will focus on girls who are refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons.<sup>3940</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD14 million investment in the project Strengthen the Right of Girls to Complete Safe and Timely Schooling in Burkina Faso. The project aims to ensure the right of girls and boys aged 6 to 16 to obtain a safe and gender-sensitive

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<sup>3934</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3935</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3936</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3937</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3938</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3939</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3940</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

education. The project is specifically targeted at addressing the urgent and growing needs of children in areas of Burkina Faso where security is compromised.<sup>3941</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD7 million investment in the project Equality for Girls' Access to Education in the DRC. This funding strives to reduce barriers that prevent girls from attending school, further emphasizing the importance of quality and gender-responsive formal and non-formal education services in the provinces of North Kivu and Kasai.<sup>3942</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD11 million investment in the project Improving Learning Transitions and Retention for Girls' Empowerment in Rural and Remote Areas of Somalia. This funding will improve access to quality education for up to 25,000 marginalized young girls aged 10-19, including sedentary and nomadic girls, girls with disabilities, and children affected by conflict and violence.<sup>3943</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD20.3 million investment to the project Improving Adolescent Girls Inclusive Education: Mali, which will promote the right to inclusive, quality and gender-responsive education for 90,000 adolescent girls in 11 communities in Segou and Mopti's conflict-affected regions. This initiative will be implemented by Plan International Canada in partnership with World Vision Canada and Save the Children Canada.<sup>3944</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD9.2 million investment in the project Educating Vulnerable and Hard to Reach girls and adolescent girls in northeastern Nigeria. This project will have a specific focus on conflict-affected states in northeastern Nigeria, including Yobe, Adamawa, and parts of Borno. The project will aim to improve the basic skills of girls and women affected by conflict and enhance their ability to earn an independent income.<sup>3945</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD8.5 million investment in the project Community Based Education in South Sudan, an initiative that will improve access to education and learning opportunities for 9,900 marginalized and vulnerable out of school children. With an emphasis on girls this project will increase access to schooling by establishing 300 non-formal schools and offering quality primary education.<sup>3946</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD5 million investment in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children. This project will work with UNICEF to support activities in five African countries and focus on addressing violence as a barrier to girls' education.<sup>3947</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD5 million investment in UNdaunted — Educating Girls with Disabilities in Somalia. This project will use Canada's investment to leverage

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<sup>3941</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3942</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3943</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3944</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3945</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3946</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3947</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

additional funding from Canadian philanthropists and subsequently invest in removing barriers to girls' education. The project seeks to benefit 22,500 adolescent girls in Somalia.<sup>3948</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD4 million investment in Inclusive Education for Palestinian Children with Disabilities — West Bank and Gaza. This project promotes educational inclusion and the access of girls and boys with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza to gender and disability-responsive education.<sup>3949</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD10 million investment in SALALEM: Prosperity and Advancement for Palestinian Women and Youth — West Bank and Gaza. This project serves to improve the learning outcomes of young women and youth with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza. The project will result in improved learning for work skills and job readiness, and further reduce barriers to workforce entry.<sup>3950</sup>

On 26 August 2019, Prime Minister Trudeau announced a CAD10 million investment in the project Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Technical and Vocational Education and Training in the West Bank, which aims to provide improved and equitable learning and employment outcomes for women and girls, especially women with disabilities in the West Bank.<sup>3951</sup>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit in France, Canada and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>3952</sup>

On 29 August 2019, Minister Monsef announced an investment of up to CAD1.5 million to address resource gaps in post-secondary institutions and enhance the prevention and response to gender-based violence on university campuses.<sup>3953</sup>

On 9 December 2019, Minister of International Development Karina Gould announced funding of up to CAD21 million over the next five years in support of a gender-sensitive approach to women's reproductive health services in Pakistan. The Healthy Families Pakistan initiative, led by the UN Population Fund in partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network, will provide women and adolescent girls with safe and accessible family planning resources.<sup>3954</sup>

On 17 January 2020, Global Affairs Canada announced a CAD991,699 investment in the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program. This program is implemented by Search For Common Ground. It aims to reduce the spread of Ebola in the conflict-affected region of Nord-Kivu in the Democratic

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<sup>3948</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3949</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3950</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3951</sup> Creating a better future, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/backgrounders/2019/08/26/creating-better-future>

<sup>3952</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>3953</sup> Government of Canada supports framework to end gender-based violence at post-secondary institutions, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Toronto) 29 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/status-women/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supports-framework-to-end-gender-based-violence-at-post-secondary-institutions.html>

<sup>3954</sup> Minister Gould announces new support for women's reproductive health services in Pakistan, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2019/12/minister-gould-announces-new-support-for-womens-reproductive-health-services-in-pakistan.html>

Republic of Congo by encouraging positive communication between local actors fighting the virus, namely including police officers and vulnerable populations.<sup>3955</sup>

On 17 January 2020, Global Affairs Canada announced multiple Canada-Africa projects. The projects include a CAD18 million investment in the Mozambican Rural Women's and Girls' Participatory Economic Empowerment, which aims to improve rural women's and girls' economic empowerment in Mozambique. A CAD15 million investment will be provided to the project Combat Absenteeism and Barriers to Education, which will help Mozambique combat absenteeism and barriers to education, particularly with regards to girls. CAD10 million will be provided to the project Action for Girls and Young Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Mozambique, which aims to improve gender equality by promoting adolescent girls and young women's sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, CAD250,000 will be invested in the project Advancing Sexual and Reproductive Health in Cabo Delgado, which seeks to advance sexual and reproductive health. CAD250,000 will be disbursed to the project Mozambique Recovery Facility, in an effort to help the government of Mozambique's Office for Post-Cyclone Idai Reconstruction, specifically with regards to recovery planning and coordination of reconstruction efforts. CAD250,000 will be invested in the project Reducing Mozambique's High Trade Costs, which helps to identify the causes of high trade costs and an unfavourable trade environment. Lastly, a CAD50,000 investment will be provided to the project Supporting Gender Integration into Policy Planning at the Sudanese Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, which will support gender integration in policy planning.<sup>3956</sup>

On 22 April 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau announced CAD9 billion in funding for post-secondary students.<sup>3957</sup> These funds will support post-secondary students through scholarships, grants, and financial assistance.<sup>3958</sup> Of this amount, CAD75 million will specifically invest in indigenous post-secondary education, with CAD65 million supporting indigenous students directly.<sup>3959</sup> This investment will “increase the funds available to students through the Post-Secondary Student

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<sup>3955</sup> Canada announces funding to provide humanitarian assistance to flood-affected people in the Republic of Congo and to fight Ebola and other crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Global Affairs Canada (Brazzaville) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-announces-funding-to-provide-humanitarian-assistance-to-flood-affected-people-in-the-republic-of-congo-and-to-fight-ebola-and-other-crises-i.html>

<sup>3956</sup> Canada-Africa project announcements, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2020/01/canada-africa-project-announcements.html>

<sup>3957</sup> Assembly of First Nations National Chief says Federal Announcement on First Nations Education Funding is an Important Step Towards Investing in First Nations Students and Canada's Future, Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020. <https://www.afn.ca/assembly-of-first-nations-national-chief-says-federal-announcement-on-first-nations-education-funding-is-an-important-step-towards-investing-in-first-nations-students-and-canadas-future/>

<sup>3958</sup> Support for students and new grads affected by COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/04/22/support-students-and-new-grads-affected-covid-19>

<sup>3959</sup> Assembly of First Nations National Chief says Federal Announcement on First Nations Education Funding is an Important Step Towards Investing in First Nations Students and Canada's Future, Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020. <https://www.afn.ca/assembly-of-first-nations-national-chief-says-federal-announcement-on-first-nations-education-funding-is-an-important-step-towards-investing-in-first-nations-students-and-canadas-future/>

Support Program,” which provides funding for First Nations students to pursue post-secondary education.<sup>3960</sup>

On 30 July 2020, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern Affairs Yvonne Jones announced CAD1.2 million in federal funding towards rebuilding the Aboriginal Family Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay.<sup>3961</sup> This investment aims to improve early childhood education for the indigenous communities of Labrador.<sup>3962</sup>

On 9 August 2020, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Terry Duguid announced CAD895,000 to support the Ya’thi Néné Land and Resource Office and the Gabriel Dumont Institute Training and Employment Inc.<sup>3963</sup> This investment will “develop training and employment opportunities for residents of northern Saskatchewan” and “build on a successful entrepreneurship pilot program focused on Métis entrepreneurs in Saskatchewan.”<sup>3964</sup>

On 24 August 2020, Minister Hussen announced CAD15 million in funding for early learning and childcare investments in Manitoba.<sup>3965</sup> This funding will “ensure that all children and families in Manitoba have equal access to quality early learning and childcare they need to succeed.”<sup>3966</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Minister Hussen announced CAD147 million in funding for early learning and childcare investments in Ontario.<sup>3967</sup> This funding will “ensure that all children and families in Ontario have equal access to the quality early learning and childcare they need to succeed.”<sup>3968</sup>

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<sup>3960</sup> Assembly of First Nations National Chief says Federal Announcement on First Nations Education Funding is an Important Step Towards Investing in First Nations Students and Canada’s Future, Assembly of First Nations (Ottawa) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020. <https://www.afn.ca/assembly-of-first-nations-national-chief-says-federal-announcement-on-first-nations-education-funding-is-an-important-step-towards-investing-in-first-nations-students-and-canadas-future/>

<sup>3961</sup> New building for the Aboriginal Family Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay will benefit Indigenous communities of Labrador and local residents, Infrastructure Canada (Happy Valley-Goose Bay) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 20 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/new-building-for-the-aboriginal-family-centre-in-happy-valley-goose-bay-will-benefit-indigenous-communities-of-labrador-and-local-residents.html>.

<sup>3962</sup> New building for the Aboriginal Family Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay will benefit Indigenous communities of Labrador and local residents, Infrastructure Canada (Happy Valley-Goose Bay) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 20 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2020/07/new-building-for-the-aboriginal-family-centre-in-happy-valley-goose-bay-will-benefit-indigenous-communities-of-labrador-and-local-residents.html>.

<sup>3963</sup> Government of Canada invests in Saskatchewan Indigenous businesses and communities, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Saskatoon) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 21 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-saskatchewan-indigenous-businesses-and-communities.html>.

<sup>3964</sup> Government of Canada invests in Saskatchewan Indigenous businesses and communities, Western Economic Diversification Canada (Saskatoon) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 21 August 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-saskatchewan-indigenous-businesses-and-communities.html>.

<sup>3965</sup> The Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announced additional support for quality early learning and childcare across the province, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/the-government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-manitoba-announced-additional-support-for-quality-early-learning-and-child-care-across-the-province.html>.

<sup>3966</sup> The Government of Canada and the Government of Manitoba announced additional support for quality early learning and childcare across the province, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 24 August 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/08/the-government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-manitoba-announced-additional-support-for-quality-early-learning-and-child-care-across-the-province.html>.

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>3969</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough announced CAD11.6 million in funding for Simon Fraser University's Pivot 2020 project under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS).<sup>3970</sup> This investment "will provide paid research and skill development opportunities to more than 1,400 youth in 27 cities across Canada who face barriers to employment."<sup>3971</sup>

On 11 September 2020, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna announced CAD7.8 million in funding for Project Learning Tree Canada's Green Jobs Initiative under YESS.<sup>3972</sup> This investment will provide skills training and work experience to youth facing barriers to education and employment.<sup>3973</sup>

Canada fully complied with its commitment by investing in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Canada invested in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth by enhancing early childhood and basic education around the world. In the second pillar, education for creating innovation, Canada contributed to vocational and skill-based training and innovation through private sector collaboration. Lastly, in the third pillar of education for resilient and inclusive future, Canada emphasized educational accessibility for marginalized populations such as refugees, women and girls, hard-to-reach demographics, populations affected by ongoing conflict, and individuals with disabilities.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Dmitriy Frolovskiy and Erfan Ehsan*

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<sup>3967</sup> The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario announce additional support for quality early learning and childcare across the province, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 10 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/the-government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-ontario-announce-additional-support-for-quality-early-learning-and-child-care-across-the-province.html>.

<sup>3968</sup> The Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario announce additional support for quality early learning and childcare across the province, Employment and Social Development Canada (Toronto) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 10 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/the-government-of-canada-and-the-government-of-ontario-announce-additional-support-for-quality-early-learning-and-child-care-across-the-province.html>.

<sup>3969</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>3970</sup> Government of Canada COVID-19 measures delivering support for young people and students this fall, Employment and Social Development Canada (Burnaby) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/announcement-in-british-columbia-on-support-for-canadian-youth-facing-barriers-to-employment-and-schooling.html>.

<sup>3971</sup> Government of Canada COVID-19 measures delivering support for young people and students this fall, Employment and Social Development Canada (Burnaby) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/09/announcement-in-british-columbia-on-support-for-canadian-youth-facing-barriers-to-employment-and-schooling.html>.

<sup>3972</sup> Government of Canada COVID-19 measures delivering support for young people and students this fall, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-covid-19-measures-delivering-support-for-young-people-this-fall-879475089.html>.

<sup>3973</sup> Government of Canada COVID-19 measures delivering support for young people and students this fall, Employment and Social Development Canada (Ottawa) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/government-of-canada-covid-19-measures-delivering-support-for-young-people-this-fall-879475089.html>.

## **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 8 July 2019, the Communist Party Central Committee and the State Council published new guidelines to advance education reform and improve compulsory education. The guidelines aim to foster the development of well-rounded moral, intellectual, physical and aesthetic grounding. Schools are encouraged to integrate more technology in classroom learnings, especially in rural and remote areas where more free and high-quality educational resources are needed. The guidelines also highlight the importance of having “high-quality and professional” teaching personnel, thus proposing more training for teachers and improved salaries and benefits.<sup>3974</sup>

On 9 July 2019, the Ministry of Education introduced a plan to promote labor education, ranging from household chores to community service, in primary and secondary schools and colleges. Fuzhi Zheng, Vice-Minister of Education, emphasized the need to increase labor education and practical opportunities for students to learn about subjects such as agriculture, production and business.<sup>3975</sup>

On 10 July 2019, the Ministry of Education announced new guidelines aimed at reducing excessive workloads for primary and middle school students. Rather than focusing on grades, the new and more comprehensive evaluation system will assess schools based on high-quality and professional teaching.<sup>3976</sup>

On 17 July 2019, the Ministry of Education approved name changes for 15 higher vocational schools to universities. This initiative strives to cultivate professional skills and encourage employment by placing emphasis on vocational education.<sup>3977</sup>

On 17 July 2019, the Ministry of Education, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Finance jointly issued a document aimed at eliminating “super-sized” classes by the end of 2020, defined as classes that accommodate more than 66 primary or middle school students. This document requires local authorities to set up small rural schools and boarding schools in towns and townships, and further improve the conditions of these schools by building dining halls and sports venues. Where possible, rural schools should also make efforts to integrate technology into learning.<sup>3978</sup>

On 29 July 2019, Premier Li Keqiang presented reforms and developments in elementary education, specifically highlighting the importance of distributing education resources and greater support to

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<sup>3974</sup> China issues new guideline to improve compulsory education, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/201907/08/content\\_WS5d233d2ac6d03ce67879a083.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/201907/08/content_WS5d233d2ac6d03ce67879a083.html)

<sup>3975</sup> China to promote labor education in schools, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/09/content\\_WS5d248a83c6d03ce67879a28e.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/09/content_WS5d248a83c6d03ce67879a28e.html)

<sup>3976</sup> Schools urged to cut burden of student work, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 10 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/201907/10/content\\_WS5d257943c6d03ce67879a2c2.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/201907/10/content_WS5d257943c6d03ce67879a2c2.html)

<sup>3977</sup> 15 higher vocational schools graduate to university status, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/17/content\\_WS5d2eb2afc6d00d362f66856b.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/17/content_WS5d2eb2afc6d00d362f66856b.html)

<sup>3978</sup> China to reduce oversized classes to improve education, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/17/content\\_WS5d36a400c6d00d362f668b85.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201907/17/content_WS5d36a400c6d00d362f668b85.html)

poverty-stricken areas. Premier Li also spoke about the multi-pronged measures that will be taken to improve preschool education and emphasize kindergarten enrollment. Security precautions will be taken on school campuses to create a safe environment for students and ease parents' concerns.<sup>3979</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the State Council Information Office released a white paper entitled "Equality, Development and Sharing: Progress of Women's Cause in 70 Years Since New China's Founding." According to the paper, China promulgated laws and regulations to protect women's economic rights and interests in the workforce.<sup>3980</sup>

On 10 October 2019, the Ministry of Education announced plans to promote innovation and entrepreneurship education through building demonstration zones at colleges and universities. The Central Finance Department designated RMB880 million to build these zones, and to date, demonstration bases have been set up in 19 colleges and universities.<sup>3981</sup>

On 12 October 2019, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines to propose four areas for reform: the management of education and teaching, systems of education and teaching, teaching personnel and organizational guarantee. The guidelines called for the development of "Internet Plus Education" and "smart" education to reform university classroom teaching and improve the quality of the courses. The guidelines also requested that universities improve appraisal systems to punish academic misconduct and improve standards for degree conferral. To strictly control examinations and graduation, the guidelines called for efforts to improve the country's academic assessment system by combining process-oriented and result-oriented assessments.<sup>3982</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the State Council Leading Group Office of Poverty Alleviation and Development introduced new policies to support individuals living with disabilities and in poverty. The new policies will focus on compulsory education, basic medical care, housing security and safe drinking water.<sup>3983</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Vice-Premier Sun Chunlan spoke about further reforms of vocational education and the need to optimize skilled talent. Reform measures will include building a team of teachers for vocational training, improving their eligibility certification and management, and hiring teachers from companies.<sup>3984</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council published new guidelines reforming the educational supervision and guidance system. The guidelines

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<sup>3979</sup> Premier Li calls for high-quality, fair elementary education, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 29 July 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/201907/29/content\\_WS5d3efa67c6d0c6695ff7ddcd.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/201907/29/content_WS5d3efa67c6d0c6695ff7ddcd.html)

<sup>3980</sup> China publishes white paper on progress of women's cause in 70 years, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201909/19/content\\_WS5d83338ac6d0bcf8c4c13aed.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/news/topnews/201909/19/content_WS5d83338ac6d0bcf8c4c13aed.html)

<sup>3981</sup> Chinese colleges have 28,000 teachers for innovation, entrepreneurship, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/10/content\\_WS5d9f3857c6d0bcf8c4c14dbc.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/10/content_WS5d9f3857c6d0bcf8c4c14dbc.html)

<sup>3982</sup> China issues guideline to deepen reform on undergraduate education, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/12/content\\_WS5da1bb01c6d0bcf8c4c14f85.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/12/content_WS5da1bb01c6d0bcf8c4c14f85.html)

<sup>3983</sup> Better support for severely disabled poor people, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/22/content\\_WS5dae38d9c6d0bcf8c4c1582c.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/201910/22/content_WS5dae38d9c6d0bcf8c4c1582c.html)

<sup>3984</sup> Vice-premier stresses deepening vocational education reform, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202001/16/content\\_WS5e1f99fac6d0891feec0248f.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/sunchunlan/202001/16/content_WS5e1f99fac6d0891feec0248f.html)



call for new ways of overseeing local governments in their educational responsibilities and the performance of existing schools.<sup>3985</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Ministry of Education launched a national campaign from May to August 2020 to boost employment and entrepreneurship among university graduates.<sup>3986</sup> This campaign, jointly implemented by the Ministry of Education and five other governmental departments, includes measures such as expanding enrollment for higher education and creating more jobs at the grassroots level.<sup>3987</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Ministry of Education issued guidelines on improving students' physical education.<sup>3988</sup> The guidelines ask schools to adjust their curriculum accordingly and pay particular attention to physical education as students head back to school.<sup>3989</sup>

On 21 May 2020, the Ministry of Education announced the establishment of "schools for future technologies" in a select group of China's universities.<sup>3990</sup> This pilot program comes amid the Ministry's efforts to promote the development of new engineering disciplines and foster the cultivation of future technological leaders.<sup>3991</sup>

On 3 June 2020, at a teleconference on university graduates' employment and entrepreneurship, Premier Li Keqiang stressed the importance of post-graduate employment and called for efforts to promote jobs for university graduates.<sup>3992</sup> Premier Li discussed policies such as targeted vocational skills training and enlarging the scale of internship programs as possible ways to improve graduates' capability for employment and entrepreneurship.<sup>3993</sup>

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<sup>3985</sup> China issues guideline for enhancing educational supervision, guidance, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 14 March 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202002/19/content\\_WS5e4d35c6c6d0595e03c21122.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/202002/19/content_WS5e4d35c6c6d0595e03c21122.html)

<sup>3986</sup> China to launch national campaign to boost employment of university graduates, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/07/content\\_WS5eb340b9c6d0b3f0e9497178.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/07/content_WS5eb340b9c6d0b3f0e9497178.html)

<sup>3987</sup> China to launch national campaign to boost employment of university graduates, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 6 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/07/content\\_WS5eb340b9c6d0b3f0e9497178.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/07/content_WS5eb340b9c6d0b3f0e9497178.html)

<sup>3988</sup> Chinese schools asked to improve physical education as students return, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/20/content\\_WS5ec4f9dec6d0b3f0e9498099.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/20/content_WS5ec4f9dec6d0b3f0e9498099.html)

<sup>3989</sup> Chinese schools asked to improve physical education as students return, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/20/content\\_WS5ec4f9dec6d0b3f0e9498099.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/20/content_WS5ec4f9dec6d0b3f0e9498099.html)

<sup>3990</sup> China to pilot 'schools for future technologies,' State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/22/content\\_WS5ec70eeac6d0b3f0e94982c4.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/22/content_WS5ec70eeac6d0b3f0e94982c4.html)

<sup>3991</sup> China to pilot 'schools for future technologies,' State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/22/content\\_WS5ec70eeac6d0b3f0e94982c4.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202005/22/content_WS5ec70eeac6d0b3f0e94982c4.html)

<sup>3992</sup> Premier stresses stable employment for graduates, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202006/03/content\\_WS5ed7aeabc6d0b3f0e9499882.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202006/03/content_WS5ed7aeabc6d0b3f0e9499882.html)

<sup>3993</sup> Premier stresses stable employment for graduates, State Council of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202006/03/content\\_WS5ed7aeabc6d0b3f0e9499882.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/premier/news/202006/03/content_WS5ed7aeabc6d0b3f0e9499882.html)

On 18 June 2020, the Ministry of Education and other government departments issued new guidelines regarding the opening up of China’s educational sector.<sup>3994</sup> The guidelines reiterated that China will cultivate talent by encouraging students to study abroad, and the Ministry will cooperate with other countries to offer more overseas opportunities.<sup>3995</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the Ministry of Education announced its plans to deepen international cooperation and further open China’s education sector to nurture more high-level professionals with global perspectives.<sup>3996</sup> The cooperation plan will cover higher education, basic education, and vocational training.<sup>3997</sup>

On 28 July 2020, the Office of Education Inspection Committee of the State Council held a video meeting with the provincial leaders of Shaanxi, Henan, and Jilin.<sup>3998</sup> The meeting produced a three-point proposal: resources should be mobilized for adequate infrastructure in each residential area by the end of 2020, accountability challenges should be addressed through regulatory processes, and measures should draw on best practices from other provinces.<sup>3999</sup>

On 5 September 2020, Minister of Education Baosheng Chen introduced China’s practices in early childhood education, internationalization in education, and COVID-19 prevention during the G20 Education Ministerial Meeting.<sup>4000</sup> To achieve the goals shared by G20 members, Minister Chen proposed three measures to provide equitable and quality education to all children: education reform integrating new technologies, collaborative efforts between different actors to solve development issues, and support for vulnerable and marginalized populations.<sup>4001</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4002</sup>

On 6 September 2020, the Ministry of Education issued a document entitled a “Circular on Reinforcing Rural Teacher Development in the New Era” in collaboration with five other state

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<sup>3994</sup> Opening-up of educational sector to go on, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202006/19/content\\_WS5eebf78ec6d0a6946639c592.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202006/19/content_WS5eebf78ec6d0a6946639c592.html)

<sup>3995</sup> Opening-up of educational sector to go on, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202006/19/content\\_WS5eebf78ec6d0a6946639c592.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/policywatch/202006/19/content_WS5eebf78ec6d0a6946639c592.html)

<sup>3996</sup> China to deepen international education cooperation, opening-up, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/19/content\\_WS5eec1920c6d0a6946639c600.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/19/content_WS5eec1920c6d0a6946639c600.html)

<sup>3997</sup> China to deepen international education cooperation, opening-up, State Council of the People’s Republic of China (Beijing) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020.

[http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/19/content\\_WS5eec1920c6d0a6946639c600.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/statecouncil/ministries/202006/19/content_WS5eec1920c6d0a6946639c600.html)

<sup>3998</sup> Office of Education Inspection Committee of the State Council urges regulation of urban neighborhood kindergartens, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202008/t20200810\\_477329.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202008/t20200810_477329.html)

<sup>3999</sup> Office of Education Inspection Committee of the State Council urges regulation of urban neighborhood kindergartens, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202008/t20200810\\_477329.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202008/t20200810_477329.html)

<sup>4000</sup> Chen Baosheng attends G20 Education Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200910\\_486823.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200910_486823.html)

<sup>4001</sup> Chen Baosheng attends G20 Education Ministerial Meeting, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200910\\_486823.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200910_486823.html)

<sup>4002</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

agencies.<sup>4003</sup> The document outlines new measures to reduce poverty and revitalize rural regions by supplying well-trained teachers.<sup>4004</sup> Next steps include setting goals and securing funds to implement these policy measures, strengthening collaboration between different government agencies under educational authorities, and building a workforce of trained teachers to serve in rural areas.<sup>4005</sup>

On 7 September 2020, at the National Conference on Teacher Development 2020, Minister Chen proposed initiatives to improve teachers' development.<sup>4006</sup> These initiatives include investing in teachers' education, implementing reforms to performance assessment and promotion systems, and improving the social status of teachers through public policy.<sup>4007</sup>

On 8 September 2020, Vice Minister of Education Xuejun Tian and Russia's Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education Afansiev co-chaired the 20th meeting of the Sub-Committee on Sino-Russian Cooperation in Education.<sup>4008</sup> Both parties provided an overview of various tasks under the Sino-Russian Action Plan on Cultural Cooperation and shared results in areas such as foreign student exchange, university cooperation, language teaching, youth exchange and multilateral educational cooperation.<sup>4009</sup>

China fully complied with its commitment to invest in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. China enhanced the quality assurance of teachers, invested in vocational and skill-based training in innovation and entrepreneurship, and highlighted the educational accessibility of individuals with disabilities and in hard-to-reach regions.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Coco Yang*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 26 July 2019, the Ministry of National Education and Youth introduced Loi pour l'École de la Confiance (Law for a School of Trust). This bill aims to guarantee the mastery of foundational knowledge for all students by lowering the age of compulsory education to three years. The bill also

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<sup>4003</sup> MOE jointly issues circular on reinforcing rural teacher development in the new era, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 6 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200907\\_486054.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200907_486054.html)

<sup>4004</sup> MOE jointly issues circular on reinforcing rural teacher development in the new era, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 6 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200907\\_486054.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200907_486054.html)

<sup>4005</sup> MOE jointly issues circular on reinforcing rural teacher development in the new era, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 6 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200907\\_486054.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200907_486054.html)

<sup>4006</sup> 2020 National Conference on Teacher Development held in Beijing, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200914\\_487761.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200914_487761.html)

<sup>4007</sup> 2020 National Conference on Teacher Development held in Beijing, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020. [http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200914\\_487761.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200914_487761.html)

<sup>4008</sup> Tian Xuejun attends 20th meeting of Sub-Committee on Sino-Russian Cooperation in Education, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200914\\_487762.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200914_487762.html)

<sup>4009</sup> Tian Xuejun attends 20th meeting of Sub-Committee on Sino-Russian Cooperation in Education, Ministry of Education (Beijing) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 12 September 2020.

[http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press\\_releases/202009/t20200914\\_487762.html](http://en.moe.gov.cn/news/press_releases/202009/t20200914_487762.html)

establishes a new body to evaluate schools and improve the management of teachers with additional training.<sup>4010</sup>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit, France and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4011</sup>

On 30 August 2019, the Ministry of National Education and Youth and Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation introduced “Cadre de référence des compétences numériques,” also known as CRCN — the framework for digital skills. This system creates a reference for levels of digital skill mastery and issues certification and assessment through the Pix platform.<sup>4012</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the European Space Agency and the National Center for Space Studies launched the French European Space Education Resource Office.<sup>4013</sup> This program provides teachers with training based on an innovative didactic approach, utilizing real-life professional practices and role models. The program will also offer direct opportunities to students via interdisciplinary school projects and initiatives.<sup>4014</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the Minister of National Education and Youth Jean-Michel Blanquer launched a consultation process leading up to the Digital State for Education Forum on 4-5 November 2020 in Poitiers.<sup>4015</sup> The process is structured around the following major themes: teaching and learning digitally, equal access to digital technology for all, working together differently, common professional digital culture, and responsible and sovereign digital governance and anticipation.<sup>4016</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Minister Blanquer hosted the first meeting of the Installation of the School’s Evaluation Council.<sup>4017</sup> This council is entrusted with the task of defining the framework and tools for school evaluation, providing for the dual purpose of self-evaluation and external evaluation. The Council will strive to ensure the consistency of various assessments, including that of student achievements, academic establishments, and education system. The Council will further analyze results and produce summaries, opinions, and recommendations accordingly.<sup>4018</sup>

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<sup>4010</sup> National Reforms in School Education — Law for a school of trust, Eurydice — European Commission (Paris) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2020. [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-school-education-23\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-school-education-23_en)

<sup>4011</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4012</sup> National Reforms related to Transversal Skills & Employability, Cadre de référence des compétences numériques, Eurydice — European Commission (Paris) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 16 March 2020. [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-related-transversal-skills-and-employability-23\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/national-reforms-related-transversal-skills-and-employability-23_en)

<sup>4013</sup> France takes off to support and inspire STEM education, European Space Agency (Paris) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <http://spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=55906>

<sup>4014</sup> France takes off to support and inspire STEM education, European Space Agency (Paris) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <http://spaceref.com/news/viewpr.html?pid=55906>

<sup>4015</sup> The General States of Digital for Education, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-etats-generaux-du-numerique-pour-l-education-304117>

<sup>4016</sup> The General States of Digital for Education, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-etats-generaux-du-numerique-pour-l-education-304117>

<sup>4017</sup> Installation of the School’s Evaluation Council, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/installation-du-conseil-d-evaluation-de-l-ecole-305086>

<sup>4018</sup> Installation of the School’s Evaluation Council, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/installation-du-conseil-d-evaluation-de-l-ecole-305086>

On 30 June 2020, the National Inclusive School Monitoring Committee met with Minister Blanquer and Secretary of State for People with Disabilities Sophie Cluzel.<sup>4019</sup> Secretary Cluzel spoke of a new school year in 2020 with enhanced support for families, strengthened resources within schools, and increased collaboration with the medico-social sector.<sup>4020</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Minister Blanquer and Minister Delegate in charge of Sports Roxana Maracineanu met with youth in Montpellier at a discussion with educational and sports partners.<sup>4021</sup> The implementation of “Learning Holidays” offers youth a balanced program combining academic studies and sporting or cultural activities.<sup>4022</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the Ministry of National Education introduced a new grammar resource for students and teachers.<sup>4023</sup> This resource can be viewed and downloaded from the Éduscol website, and it aims to support the training of teachers to develop or consolidate their grammatical knowledge.<sup>4024</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4025</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the Minister of National Education, Youth and Sports and Head of State, along with the Minister of Higher Education, Research and Innovation and the Minister Delegate of Equality between Women and Men, Diversity and Equal Opportunities, promoted new measures in favor of equal opportunities.<sup>4026</sup> These new measures include plans to build 80 campuses of excellence, which are post-secondary institutions that focus on a regional or national economic issue. The campuses are scheduled to be built by the end of 2020.<sup>4027</sup>

France fully complied with its commitment to invest in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Specifically, France invested in training teachers, enhancing vocational and skill-based educational resources for innovation, and committed to gender-responsive education.

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<sup>4019</sup> Inclusive School: National Monitoring Committee, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/ecole-inclusive-comite-national-de-suivi-du-30-juin-2020-305083>

<sup>4020</sup> Inclusive School: National Monitoring Committee, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/ecole-inclusive-comite-national-de-suivi-du-30-juin-2020-305083>

<sup>4021</sup> Open School and Sports Practice for Summer 2020 by Jean Michel Blanquer and Roxana Maracineanu, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/ecole-ouverte-et-pratique-sportive-pour-l-ete-2020-deplacement-de-jean-michel-blanquer-et-roxana-305209>

<sup>4022</sup> Open School and Sports Practice for Summer 2020 by Jean Michel Blanquer and Roxana Maracineanu, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/ecole-ouverte-et-pratique-sportive-pour-l-ete-2020-deplacement-de-jean-michel-blanquer-et-roxana-305209>

<sup>4023</sup> The French Language, A Priority: Grammar For All, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/la-langue-francaise-une-priorite-une-grammaire-pour-tous-305199>

<sup>4024</sup> The French Language, A Priority: Grammar For All, Ministry of National Education (Paris) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/la-langue-francaise-une-priorite-une-grammaire-pour-tous-305199>

<sup>4025</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4026</sup> Trip to Clermont-Ferrand on the theme of equal opportunities, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/deplacement-clermont-ferrand-sur-le-theme-de-l-egalite-des-chances-305972>

<sup>4027</sup> Campuses of trades and qualifications, Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports (Paris) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 13 September 2020. <https://www.education.gouv.fr/les-campus-des-metiers-et-des-qualifications-5075>

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Coco Yang*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit, Germany and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4028</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the German Development Bank financially supported the launch of a high-tech vocational training centre in Sri Lanka.<sup>4029</sup>

On 1 November 2019, Germany and India signed a joint declaration of intent to cooperate in the field of vocational education.<sup>4030</sup>

On 1 November 2019, Germany and India signed an “addendum to the memorandum of understanding” on cooperation in the field of higher education.<sup>4031</sup>

On 19 November 2019, Germany and Egypt signed five agreements to invest in vocational education.<sup>4032</sup> The agreements include provisions on training teachers and upgrading vocational schools at the expense of EUR10 million.<sup>4033</sup>

On 24 November 2019, the German Development Bank signed an agreement with the Jordanian Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, pledging EUR20 million to a program that promotes technical and vocational training in Jordan.<sup>4034</sup> This funding will build a college for technical training and aims to develop high quality vocational and education training programs that align with the demands of Jordan's labour market.<sup>4035</sup>

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<sup>4028</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4029</sup> US\$7.6m hi-tech training centre set up in Kilinochchi, Daily News (Colombo) 21 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.dailynews.lk/2019/09/21/local/197560/us-76-m-hi-tech-training-centre-set-kilinochchi>

<sup>4030</sup> India, Germany ink deal for cooperation in skills development, vocational education, Outlook India (New Delhi) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/india-germany-ink-deal-for-cooperation-in-skills-development-vocational-education/1653139>

<sup>4031</sup> India, Germany ink deal for cooperation in skills development, vocational education, Outlook India (New Delhi) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/india-germany-ink-deal-for-cooperation-in-skills-development-vocational-education/1653139>

<sup>4032</sup> Egypt, Germany sign agreements worth 330 mln euros on renewable energy, vocational training, Al-Ahram (Cairo) 19 November 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/356238/Business/Economy/Egypt,-Germany-sign-agreements-worth--mln-euros-on.aspx>

<sup>4033</sup> Egypt, Germany sign agreements worth 330 mln euros on renewable energy, vocational training, Al-Ahram (Cairo) 19 November 2019. Access Date 7 February 2020. <http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/3/12/356238/Business/Economy/Egypt,-Germany-sign-agreements-worth--mln-euros-on.aspx>

<sup>4034</sup> Germany grants 20m euros to fund vocational training in Kingdom, Jordan Times (Amman) 24 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/germany-grants-20m-euros-fund-vocational-training-kingdom>

<sup>4035</sup> Germany grants 20m euros to fund vocational training in Kingdom, Jordan Times (Amman) 24 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/germany-grants-20m-euros-fund-vocational-training-kingdom>

On 6 February 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel signed a joint initiative with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to promote vocational training in South Africa.<sup>4036</sup>

On 24 February 2020, President Frank-Walter Steinmeier announced that Germany will cooperate with Kenya in vocational and higher education, in order to “promote youth employment and transform the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, as well as the blue economy through technical and vocational education training.”<sup>4037</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the federal and state governments agreed to invest in an e-learning program worth EUR550 million, with the federal government providing EUR500 million. This program will provide school children with mobile devices to support their online learning.<sup>4038</sup>

On 26 May 2020, the federal government committed to a declaration for the Alliance for Initial and Further Training. This declaration commits to investing in dual training systems by financially supporting companies and in turn providing opportunities for apprentices to complete their vocational training programs amidst the pandemic.<sup>4039</sup>

On 24 June 2020, the federal cabinet adopted measures for the program “Safeguard Vocational Training Places,” which includes the provision of vocational training premiums to companies that take on apprentices.<sup>4040</sup> Further measures also support apprentices who are working in businesses affected by the pandemic and those who need temporarily change their training provider in order to continue their program.<sup>4041</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the German Development Bank contributed EUR15 million to the United Nations World Food Programme for a project in Egypt.<sup>4042</sup> This project will support the nutritional and educational needs of 136,000 families in Egypt, expanding opportunities for women and youth.<sup>4043</sup>

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<sup>4036</sup> Merkel in SA: Ramaphosa calls for Germany to help in tackling jobs, power challenges, IOL News (Cape Town) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/merkel-in-sa-ramaphosa-calls-for-germany-to-help-in-tackling-jobs-power-challenges-42223992>

<sup>4037</sup> Kenya, Germany to partner in vocational training, The Star (Nairobi) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2020-02-24-kenya-germany-to-partner-in-vocational-training/>

<sup>4038</sup> 550 million euros for e-learning, The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020.

<https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/550-million-euros-for-e-learning-1753762>

<sup>4039</sup> Ensuring dual training in the corona crisis, The Federal Employment Agency (Nuremberg) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.arbeitsagentur.de/en/press/en-2020-31-ensuring-dual-training-in-the-corona-crisis>

<sup>4040</sup> Alliance for Initial and Further Training discusses implementation of federal programme ‘Safeguard vocational training places’, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200625-alliance-for-initial-and-further-training-discusses-implementation-of-federal-programme-safeguard-vocational-training-places.html>

<sup>4041</sup> Alliance for Initial and Further Training discusses implementation of federal programme ‘Safeguard vocational training places’, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (Berlin) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.bmwi.de/Redaktion/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2020/20200625-alliance-for-initial-and-further-training-discusses-implementation-of-federal-programme-safeguard-vocational-training-places.html>

<sup>4042</sup> WFP launches a €15 million project in Egypt with the German development bank, United Nations World Food Programme (Cairo) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-launches-eu15-million-project-egypt-german-development-bank>

<sup>4043</sup> WFP launches a €15 million project in Egypt with the German development bank, United Nations World Food Programme (Cairo) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-launches-eu15-million-project-egypt-german-development-bank>

The project will also invest in transforming community schools, equipping them with technology to facilitate learning.<sup>4044</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4045</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Parliamentary State Secretary for Development Maria Flachsbarth announced that Germany will invest 25 per cent of its development aid towards education and pledged an EUR8 million contribution to Education Cannot Wait.<sup>4046</sup>

Germany fully complied with this commitment by investing in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Germany fulfilled the first pillar of this commitment, to invest in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, by supporting Early Childhood Development and ensuring that school children have access to remote learning through mobile devices. Germany fulfilled the second pillar of the commitment, to invest in education for creating innovation, by pledging to provide financial support to businesses offering vocational training to apprentices. Germany fulfilled the third pillar of the commitment, to invest in education for resilient and inclusive futures, through its monetary contribution to education in developing countries and efforts to tackle gender inequality.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Layal Hallal*

#### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 28 June 2019, the Ministry of Human Resource Development launched a five-year vision plan entitled "Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme." This plan endeavors to upgrade higher education and enhance quality assurance.<sup>4047</sup>

On 5 July 2019, the Union budget allocated IN4 billion to building higher education institutions. The budget also launched the Study in India program to attract foreign students and invite direct investment.<sup>4048</sup>

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<sup>4044</sup> WFP launches a €15 million project in Egypt with the German development bank, United Nations World Food Programme (Cairo) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-launches-eu15-million-project-egypt-german-development-bank>

<sup>4045</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4046</sup> Global Leaders Focus on Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crises at ECW'S Global High-Level #UNGA75 Event: 'The Future of Education Is Here for Those Left Furthest Behind', Education Cannot Wait (New York) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/global-leaders-focus-on-education-in-emergencies-protracted-crises-at-ecws-global-high-level-unga75-event-the-future-of-education-is-here-for-those-left-furthest-behind/>

<sup>4047</sup> Five-year vision plan 'Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP)' finalised and released by HRD Ministry, Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (New Delhi) 28 June 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190979>



On 21 August 2019, the Human Resource Development Ministry launched a teacher's training program that aims to train 42 million teachers through online platforms, including a training website with online modules and a mobile app.<sup>4049</sup>

On 28 August 2019, Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank launched an education portal entitled "Shagun," which links approximately 15 million schools across India.<sup>4050</sup> Shagun increases the transparency of the education system by providing online information and allowing the public to provide direct feedback. Minister Nishank also announced the creation of the integrated National School Education Treasury, which strives to serve as a fully integrated and instantly accessible information network for all parameters relating to students, teachers, and schools in the country.<sup>4051</sup>

On 4 October 2019, Minister Nishank launched an initiative entitled the "Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme."<sup>4052</sup> The program is a platform to support students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and the performing arts. The program sponsored 60 students to help them foster "future-ready" skills and confront challenges such as climate change, pollution, and terrorism.<sup>4053</sup>

On 1 February 2020, the Union Budget 2020 announced the allocation of an additional IRS4.5 million to the education sector to implement a New Education Policy.<sup>4054,4055</sup>

On 14 February 2020, the Ministries of Women and Child Development and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship announced the "Skill India Mission." Union Minister for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Mahendra Nath Pandey announced that this initiative is a dedicated intervention to make the overall skills ecosystem more responsive and friendly to female participants in the work

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<sup>4048</sup> Modi's government just presented India's new budget. Here are the highlights, CNBC (Englewood Cliffs) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/07/05/india-budget-agriculture-infrastructure-investments-fiscal-deficit.html>

<sup>4049</sup> HRD Ministry launches NISHTHA, world's biggest teacher training program, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 21 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/hrd-ministry-launches-nishtha-world-s-biggest-teacher-training-program/story-vLjf4Se3K00twoOGp1ZRRM.html>

<sup>4050</sup> HRD Minister launches education portal 'Shagun' which links over 15 lakh schools across India, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/hrd-minister-launches-education-portal-shagun-which-links-over-15-lakh-schools/story-yMCDTqPlnxnfbZHuZ6Fual.html>

<sup>4051</sup> HRD Minister launches education portal 'Shagun' which links over 15 lakh schools across India, Hindustan Times (New Delhi) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/education/hrd-minister-launches-education-portal-shagun-which-links-over-15-lakh-schools/story-yMCDTqPlnxnfbZHuZ6Fual.html>

<sup>4052</sup> Union HRD minister launches innovative learning programme for students, The Economic Times (Bengaluru) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/union-hrd-minister-launches-innovative-learning-programme-for-students/articleshow/71524303.cms>

<sup>4053</sup> Union HRD minister launches innovative learning programme for students, The Economic Times (Bengaluru) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/education/union-hrd-minister-launches-innovative-learning-programme-for-students/articleshow/71524303.cms>

<sup>4054</sup> Union Budget: FM allocates Rs 99,300 crore for education sector in FY21, to bring new policy soon, The Economic Times (New Delhi) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/73833519.cms>

<sup>4055</sup> Budget 2020: Indian education sector will now get students and funds from foreign lands, Business Insider (New Delhi) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.in/budget/news/new-education-schemes-reforms-policies-in-budget-2020/articleshow/73836166.cms>

force. This initiative will help the country harness its advantage in human capital by enabling jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for future generations.<sup>4056</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the Ministry of Women and Child Development held a forum in New Delhi in partnership with the World Bank. The event was entitled “The Future of Work: Women in India’s Workforce.” The discussion sessions focused on investing in women’s entrepreneurship and examined the need to increase the overall presence of women in India’s labor force.<sup>4057</sup>

On 21 July 2020, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development launched MANODARPAN, a targeted initiative that provides psychosocial support for student mental health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.<sup>4058</sup> As part of this initiative, the Ministry announced a working group consisting of field experts in education, mental health and psychosocial issues. The working group will monitor and promote the mental health needs of students and the group’s findings will inform appropriate government responses.<sup>4059</sup>

On 30 July 2020, India announced its National Education Policy 2020, which outlines plans to change regulatory frameworks and bring international universities to India. The plan also strives to establish a National Research Foundation, increase the number of trained PhDs in the country, improve higher education infrastructure through long-term market loans, raise the general enrolment rate in under-enrolled districts and set up a National Scholarship Fund.<sup>4060</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4061</sup>

India fully complied with the commitment to reaffirm its investment in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. India invested in quality education for sustainable development and inclusive growth by increasing the participation of marginalized groups in the country’s education system. India further complied with the second pillar, education for creating innovation, by investing in STEM disciplines, digital education and development initiatives such as vocational and digital training for teachers. Finally, India complied with the third pillar of investing in education for a resilient and inclusive future by expanding general enrolment rates for hard-to-reach groups, providing psychosocial support, and improving the financing of educational infrastructure.

Thus, India receives a score +1.

*Analyst: Anushka Kurian*

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<sup>4056</sup> WCD and Skill Development Ministries Partner to empower women entrepreneurs, Indus Dictum (New Delhi) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 6 March 2020. <https://indusdictum.com/2020/02/14/wcd-ministry-partners-with-ministry-of-skill-development-to-empower-women-entrepreneurs/#main>

<sup>4057</sup> WCD, World Bank hold meet on women in India’s workforce, Indus Dictum (New Delhi) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://indusdictum.com/2020/03/06/wcd-world-bank-hold-meet-on-women-in-indias-workforce-2/>

<sup>4058</sup> Union HRD Minister launched MANODARPAN initiative of Minister of HRD to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-Being, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Manodarpan-merged\\_0.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Manodarpan-merged_0.pdf)

<sup>4059</sup> Union HRD Minister launched MANODARPAN initiative of Minister of HRD to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-Being, Press Information Bureau Government of India (New Delhi) 21 July 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload\\_files/mhrd/files/Manodarpan-merged\\_0.pdf](https://mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_files/mhrd/files/Manodarpan-merged_0.pdf)

<sup>4060</sup> National Education Policy 2020: A new dawn for India 30 July 2020, Financial Express (New Delhi) Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/national-education-policy-2020-a-new-dawn-for-india/2039280/>

<sup>4061</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

## Indonesia: +1

Indonesia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 20 September 2019, the government created a joint working group with the government of France to increase overall cooperation in vocational education and early childhood education.<sup>4062</sup> The joint working group will oversee the exchange of technology, technology teaching for teachers and students, and exchange of students and educators between the two countries.<sup>4063</sup>

On 25 September 2019, the Ministry of Education and Culture (MEC) created the Secretariat for the Acceleration of Papua and West Papua Educational Development to accelerate the improvement and even distribution of quality education among the provinces.<sup>4064</sup> The MEC will coordinate district and city governments as manager of basic education, early childhood education, and non-formal education, and further cooperate with agencies outside the Ministry of Education.<sup>4065</sup>

On 16 October 2019, the MEC presented programs to digitalize schools in the Papua province. This action strives for equitable education across the country by allowing disadvantaged students on the country's frontier to access an online education portal provided by the Ministry.<sup>4066</sup>

On 17 October 2019, the MEC sent 94 teachers to Community Learning Centres in Malaysia to guarantee that all Indonesian children receive quality education.<sup>4067</sup>

On 18 November 2019, Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarim made a statement expressing the need for early childhood education to instill the spirit of cooperation and tolerance.<sup>4068</sup> The Minister encouraged parents to equip their children with the ability to adapt at an

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<sup>4062</sup> Indonesia-France Strengthen Cooperation in Education Sector, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/09/indonesiaprancis-perkuat-kerja-sama-bidang-pendidikan>

<sup>4063</sup> Indonesia-France Strengthen Cooperation in Education Sector, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/09/indonesiaprancis-perkuat-kerja-sama-bidang-pendidikan>

<sup>4064</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Accelerates Educational Development in Papua and West Papua, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jayapura) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/09/kemendikbud-percepat-pembangunan-pendidikan-papua-dan-papua-barat>

<sup>4065</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Accelerates Educational Development in Papua and West Papua, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jayapura) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/09/kemendikbud-percepat-pembangunan-pendidikan-papua-dan-papua-barat>

<sup>4066</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Presents School Digitalization in Papua, Ministry of Education and Culture (Wamena) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/10/kemendikbud-hadirkan-digitalisasi-sekolah-di-papua>

<sup>4067</sup> Realizing Equitable Education Services, Ministry of Education and Culture Send 94 Teachers to Malaysia, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/10/wujudkan-pemerataan-layanan-pendidikan-kemendikbud-kirim-94-guru-ke-malaysia>

<sup>4068</sup> Minister of Education and Culture: Provide Children with Qualified Character Education and Adaptation Ability, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/11/mendikbud-bekali-anak-dengan-pendidikan-karakter-dan-kemampuan-adaptasi-yang-mumpuni>

early age, and further allow their children to develop proper cognitive abilities and socialization skills through classroom participation.<sup>4069</sup>

On 1 December 2019, the MEC held the National Seminar on community education and performance evaluation of early childhood education and Dikmas management. The seminar aimed to promote the potential of digital resources and technological competences, in order to ensure that the Indonesian workforce can innovate and harness digitalization.<sup>4070</sup> The event also encouraged the use of online resources by disadvantaged families.<sup>4071</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the MEC held an Exhibition and Teaching Factory Seminar to strengthen the work character and entrepreneurship of vocational high school students in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.<sup>4072</sup> The goal of the exhibition is to produce quality education to skilled students who can subsequently offer required services for business and industry standards.<sup>4073</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Minister Makarim set out four aspects of the “Merdeka Belajar” education policy: the introduction of the National Standard School Examination (USBN), National Examination, Learning Implementation Plan (RPP), and Zoning Regulations for Student Acceptance PPDB.<sup>4074</sup> The USBN will design a test conducted to survey students’ abilities, allowing teachers and schools to independently evaluate learning outcomes and redirect the USBN budget to improve educational quality. The RPP gives teachers more freedom in choosing, creating, using, and developing the RPP format. Specifically, the efficient writing of lesson plans will allow teachers more time to evaluate the learning process. Lastly, the PPDB provides more flexible policies to accommodate unequal educational access and quality in varying regions, granting regional authorities the ability to determine the proportion and distribution of education resources.

On 12 December 2019, the MEC signed a memorandum of understanding with Telekomunikasi Tbk on curriculum alignment in the field of fibre optics, a commitment that aims to prepare reliable network vocational school graduates.<sup>4075</sup> The program includes fibre optic technology training and

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<sup>4069</sup> Minister of Education and Culture: Provide Children with Qualified Character Education and Adaptation Ability, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/11/mendikbud-bekali-anak-dengan-pendidikan-karakter-dan-kemampuan-adaptasi-yang-mumpuni>

<sup>4070</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Strengthens Community Education Role Gives Birth to Young Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Education and Culture (Yogyakarta) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-perkuat-peran-pendidikan-masyarakat-lahirkan-wirausahawan-muda>

<sup>4071</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Strengthens Community Education Role Gives Birth to Young Entrepreneurs, Ministry of Education and Culture (Yogyakarta) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-perkuat-peran-pendidikan-masyarakat-lahirkan-wirausahawan-muda>

<sup>4072</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Holds Creative Products Exhibition for Vocational Students' Students, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-gelar-pameran-produk-kreatif-karya-siswa-smk>

<sup>4073</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Holds Creative Products Exhibition for Vocational Students, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-gelar-pameran-produk-kreatif-karya-siswa-smk>

<sup>4074</sup> Minister of Education and Culture Sets Four Principles of "Merdeka Belajar" Education Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/mendikbud-tetapkan-empat-pokok-kebijakan-pendidikan-merdeka-belajar>

<sup>4075</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Teams Up with Telkom Indonesia to Prepare SMK Graduates in Optical Fiber Technology, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-gandeng-telkom-indonesia-siapkan-lulusan-smk-bidang-teknologi-serat-optik>

certification, fibre laboratory, and industry curriculum services targeting 50 participating schools. As part of the Vocational High School Development Revitalization ordered by the President, this memorandum has the goal of synchronizing the curriculum between vocational education institutions and the needs of the business world.<sup>4076</sup>

On 24 January 2020, Makarim launched the Merdeka Belajar policy. Merdeka Campus for universities aims to provide public and private universities with accredited autonomy to create new programs. The universities can work with world-class companies, non-profit organizations, or top global universities to develop new study programs that improve human capital across all sectors and align with the needs of industry.<sup>4077</sup>

On 28 January 2020, the government agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation with Singapore in developing the competitive edge of the industrial sector. This agreement entails increasing investment in vocational education and training, further reaffirming Singapore's position as a top investor in Indonesia and promoting the development of the region of the Association of South East Asian Nations.<sup>4078</sup>

On 3 February 2020, President Joko Widodo issued a presidential regulation that converted the Hindu Dharma State Institute in Denpasar Bali to the I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa State Hindu University. This regulation will provide Hindu higher education programs with further support.<sup>4079</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the government ratified the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, streamlining bilateral market access by removing 99 per cent of tariff barriers. This agreement will allow Australian businesses involved in vocational training to work freely in Indonesia.<sup>4080</sup>

On 7 February 2020, Makarim reaffirmed the need for learning supervision by universities and lecturers outside academic study programs.<sup>4081</sup> He stated that the Merdeka policy facilitates an

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<sup>4076</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Teams Up with Telkom Indonesia to Prepare SMK Graduates in Optical Fiber Technology, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2019/12/kemendikbud-gandeng-telkom-indonesia-siapkan-lulusan-smk-bidang-teknologi-serat-optik>

<sup>4077</sup> Merdeka Campus Policy Give Higher Education Autonomy Open New Study Programs, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/01/kebijakan-kampus-merdeka-beri-otonomi-perguruan-tinggi-buka-prodi-baru>

<sup>4078</sup> Indonesia, Singapore cooperate to improve industrial competitiveness, Antara News (Jakarta) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://en.antaranews.com/news/140399/indonesia-singapore-cooperate-to-improve-industrial-competitiveness>

<sup>4079</sup> Jokowi creates country's first Hindu state university, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/03/jokowi-creates-countrys-first-hindu-state-university.html>

<sup>4080</sup> Trade pact can only further cement close bond with Indonesia, The Australian (Sydney) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/inquirer/trade-pact-can-only-further-cement-close-bond-with-indonesia/news-story/1bed1c5f96f19b98c580775a214ad0bf> Article, Indonesia ratifies long-awaited free trade deal with Australia, The Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/06/indonesia-ratifies-long-awaited-free-trade-deal-with-australia.html>

<sup>4081</sup> Merdeka Campus: Study Outside Study Program Under Lecturer Supervision, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/kampus-merdeka-pembelajaran-luar-prodi-di-bawah-pengawasan-dosen>

autonomous learning environment whereby students can gain cross-disciplinary experience and knowledge, preparing them for the future of work.<sup>4082</sup>

On 7 February 2020, Acting Director of Learning and Student Affairs Directorate General of Higher Education Paristiyanti Nurwardani invited universities to explore the Merdeka Campus policy. Such exploration prompts university collaboration with the government, companies, community institutions, and other agencies. The aim of the exploration is to improve the quality of education through sharing field experience with other institutions.<sup>4083</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the government changed the distribution and use of School Operational Assistance (SOA) to improve honorary teacher welfare. Makarim stated that increased financial autonomy allows schools to formulate a better response to their needs in sustaining educational staff. Additionally, SOA funds will be sent directly to the honorary teacher, thus increasing efficiency and freeing the education system from regulatory burdens.<sup>4084</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the government announced that it will transfer SOA funds directly from the Ministry of Finance to school accounts in order to increase transparency and accountability. The MEC is also preparing a technological platform for the planning, distribution, and reporting of SOA funds.<sup>4085</sup>

On 12 February 2020, Makarim invited representatives from partner countries to the Discussion with Development Partners on Policy Direction and Potential Collaboration forum. Makarim encouraged joint efforts with educational institutions to facilitate a shift in Indonesia's educational culture and prioritize creativity, curiosity, resilience, empathy, critical thinking, problem-solving skills, confidence, and cooperation.<sup>4086</sup>

On 29 February 2020, the MEC announced that the administration process of study program accreditation will be simplified and automated. This action intends to lessen the burden of administrative processes and thereby allow tertiary institutions to focus on improving the quality of education.<sup>4087</sup>

On 2 March 2020, the MEC launched the Mobilization Organization Program (MOP), inviting all social organizations to cooperate in the advancement of Indonesia's education through the construction of Activator Schools. The MOP intends to help educators understand the students'

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<sup>4082</sup> Merdeka Campus: Study Outside Study Program Under Lecturer Supervision, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/kampus-merdeka-pembelajaran-luar-prodi-di-bawah-pengawasan-dosen>

<sup>4083</sup> Kemendikbud Invites Higher Education Exploration of Independent Campus Policy, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/kemendikbud-ajak-perguruan-tinggi-eksplorasi-kebijakan-kampus-merdeka>

<sup>4084</sup> Merdeka Belajar: Changing the Mechanism of the BOS Funds to be the First Step in Improving Teacher Welfare, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/merdeka-belajar-perubahan-mekanisme-dana-bos-menjadi-langkah-pertama-peningkatan-kesejahteraan-guru>

<sup>4085</sup> Enhancing BOS Fund Accountability, Ministry of Education and Culture Prepares Technology Platform, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/tingkatkan-akuntabilitas-dana-bos-kemendikbud-siapkan-platform-teknologi>

<sup>4086</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Opens Opportunities for Educational Cooperation with Companions, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/kemendikbud-buka-peluang-kerja-sama-pendidikan-dengan-negara-sahabat>

<sup>4087</sup> Accreditation Administration Process Made Easier, Higher Education Encouraged to Focus More on Quality, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/02/proses-administrasi-akreditasi-dipermudah-perguruan-tinggi-didorong-lebih-fokus-ke-kualitas>

learning processes and align learning characteristics with the stage of cognitive development. This program also strives to promote a community of activists consisting of parents, leaders and community organizations in support of improved quality of education.<sup>4088</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the MEC announced further support for the MOP by providing greater funding to ensure autonomy and diversity in building Activator schools.<sup>4089</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the MEC announced its plans to reinvigorate the country's literacy and numerical competence by appointing a new generation of principals from the best teachers.<sup>4090</sup> The MEC also plans to develop an online school operational assistance marketplace, which will provide transparency and flexibility to improve the quality of learning. The program will create 10,000 mobilisation schools to transform professional education for teachers, simplifying the curriculum and allowing curricular adjustments to match the level of student ability. Moreover, the MEC will introduce Minimum Competency Assessments to evaluate schools based on literacy and numerical competence, in addition to encouraging cooperation between educational institutions and corporations.<sup>4091</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the MEC announced its immediate work on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of online learning by expanding and upgrading network availability and quality. The Ministry also encouraged the use of the Online Learning System, which promotes cooperation between universities in sharing resources and information.<sup>4092</sup> In addition, the MEC plans to add further resources to the Online Learning System to improve teacher training. This effort will improve

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<sup>4088</sup> Activator Organization Program: Ministry of Education and Culture Involves Community Organizations in Education Field, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020.

<https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/03/umumkan-program-organisasi-penggerak-kemdikbud-libatkan-organisasi-kemasyarakatan-bidang-pendidik>

<sup>4089</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Embraces Community Organizations To Create Activator Schools, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/03/kemdikbud-rangkul-organisasi-masyarakat-wujudkan-sekolah-penggerak>

<sup>4090</sup> Minister of Education and Culture Prepares Five Holistic Learning Strategies, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/04/mendikbud-siapkan-lima-strategi-pembelajaran-holistik>

Ministry of Education and Culture Opens Opportunities to Become Facilitator and Accompany Teachers, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/06/kemdikbud-membuka-kesempatan-menjadi-fasilitator-dan-pendamping-guru-penggerak>

<sup>4091</sup> Minister of Education and Culture Prepares Five Holistic Learning Strategies, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/04/mendikbud-siapkan-lima-strategi-pembelajaran-holistik>

Ministry of Education and Culture Opens Opportunities to Become Facilitator and Accompany Teachers, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 12 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020.

<https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/06/kemdikbud-membuka-kesempatan-menjadi-fasilitator-dan-pendamping-guru-penggerak>

<sup>4092</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Strengthens Lecturers' Understanding Develops Information Technology to Arrange Teaching Materials, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/06/kemdikbud-perkuat-pemahaman-dosen-kembangkan-teknologi-informasi-untuk-menyusun-bahan-ajar>

the accessibility and quality of education by spreading knowledge from metropolitan campuses to rural communities.<sup>4093</sup>

On 27 June 2020, the MEC held a workshop to develop the leadership quality of vocational school leaders. The workshop aims to facilitate increased networking and collaboration with business and industry to produce highly specialised graduates that fit the needs of the labor markets.<sup>4094</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the MEC launched the Competency and Professional Certification Program, which aims to equip human resource capacity with the relevant standardized knowledge and skills to meet the learning needs of higher education and the demands of the business world.<sup>4095</sup> The launch of this program constitutes part of the MEC's commitment to connecting vocational education with the business world, in an effort to produce an environment where graduating students can swiftly transition into a career.<sup>4096</sup>

On 13 July 2020, the MEC announced the allocation of IDR3.5 trillion to five link and match programs, in order to conjoin vocational education and industry.<sup>4097</sup> This funding will increase the number of teachers and guest lecturers, add internships to equip vocational students with work experience, provide financial support to businesses to increase the uptake of recent graduates, and provide vocational lecturers and teachers with training and technological updates from various industries.<sup>4098</sup>

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<sup>4093</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Strengthens Lecturers' Understanding Develops Information Technology to Arrange Teaching Materials, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/06/kemendikbud-perkuat-pemahaman-dosen-kembangkan-teknologi-informasi-untuk-menyusun-bahan-ajar>

<sup>4094</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Holds Workshop on Improvement of Leadership Quality in Vocational School Leaders throughout Indonesia, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 27 June 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/06/kemendikbud-gelar-lokakarya-peningkatan-kualitas-kepemimpinan-kepala-smk-seluruh-indonesia>

<sup>4095</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Launches Competency and Professional Certification Program for Vocational Human Resources, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 11 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/07/kemendikbud-luncurkan-program-sertifikasi-kompetensi-dan-profesi-bagi-sdm-vokasi>

<sup>4096</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Launches Competency and Professional Certification Program for Vocational Human Resources, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 11 July 2020. Access Date: 18 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/07/kemendikbud-luncurkan-program-sertifikasi-kompetensi-dan-profesi-bagi-sdm-vokasi>

<sup>4097</sup> Kemendikbud Allocates 3.5 Trillion for Link and Match Vocational Education with IDUKA, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/07/kemendikbud-anggarkan-34-triliun-untuk-link-and-match-pendidikan-vokasi-dengan-iduka>

<sup>4098</sup> Kemendikbud Allocates 3.5 Trillion for Link and Match Vocational Education with IDUKA, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/07/kemendikbud-anggarkan-34-triliun-untuk-link-and-match-pendidikan-vokasi-dengan-iduka>

Ministry of Education and Culture Launches Matchmaking Movement Between Industry, World of Work, World of Vocational Education, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/05/kemendikbud-luncurkan-gerakan-perjodohan-antara-dunia-industri-dunia-kerja-dunia-pendidikan-vokasi>



On 15 July 2020, the MEC launched the “Vocational Steering Forum” to encourage communication between industry and vocational education providers.<sup>4099</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4100</sup>

On 18 September 2020, the MEC and the Directorate General of Vocational Education announced the planned synchronization of vocational school curriculum, in order to provide autonomy in collaborating with industry actors.<sup>4101</sup> The effort will include teacher training collaboration and the incorporation of industry professionals in developing hard and soft skills, with the ultimate aim of generating employment for graduates and equipping them with the skills that fulfill the needs of business.<sup>4102</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the MEC announced the creation of the Integrative Holistic Early Childhood Education, which aims to reduce stunting as a result of malnutrition.<sup>4103</sup> The effort will raise awareness among early childhood educators and parents, informing them about proper nutritional and parenting practices.<sup>4104</sup>

Through Indonesia’s efforts to facilitate early childhood development and basic education, establish online education portals to provide accessible and digitalized vocational education, and provide education to frontier and minority communities, Indonesia fully complied with its commitment to the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Harris Johnston*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>4099</sup> Minister of Education and Culture Launches “Vocational Steering Forum,” Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 17 July 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/07/mendikbud-luncurkan-forum-pengarah-vokasi>

<sup>4100</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4101</sup> SMK Curriculum Adjusted to Industrial Needs, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/09/kurikulum-smk-disesuaikan-dengan-kebutuhan-industri>

<sup>4102</sup> SMK Curriculum Adjusted to Industrial Needs, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 18 September 2020. Access Date: 19 September 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/09/kurikulum-smk-disesuaikan-dengan-kebutuhan-industri>

<sup>4103</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Reduces Stunting Rate Through Integrative Holistic PAUD, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/09/kemendikbud-tekan-angka-stunting-melalui-paud-holistik-integratif>

<sup>4104</sup> Ministry of Education and Culture Reduces Stunting Rate Through Integrative Holistic PAUD, Ministry of Education and Culture (Jakarta) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.kemdikbud.go.id/main/blog/2020/09/kemendikbud-tekan-angka-stunting-melalui-paud-holistik-integratif>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit in France, Italy and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4105</sup>

On 5 November 2019, Italy announced that it will introduce climate change and sustainable development in the curriculum of public schools.<sup>4106</sup> This will encourage future generations to develop innovative ideas for climate mitigation.

On 5 March 2020, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Claudia Del Re reaffirmed that Italy will support education in Sudan and installed “a new block of the Mayo Girls Basic School in Al Yarmouk’s Block 7 in Mayo, Khartoum State.”<sup>4107</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR) announced EUR8.2 million in funding to improve distance learning during COVID-19, specifically through the figure of a digital animator.<sup>4108</sup>

On 17 April 2020, the MIUR announced EUR80 million in funding to purchase tablets and computers for primary schools.<sup>4109</sup> The aim of this funding is to improve distance education.<sup>4110</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the MIUR approved more than EUR400 million to improve the internet connectivity of schools through ultra-wide bandwidth.<sup>4111</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the MIUR announced EUR29 million to finance smart education in public high schools.<sup>4112</sup> This funding is part of the National Plan Digital School framework.<sup>4113</sup>

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<sup>4105</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4106</sup> Italy’s government becomes first to mandate climate change education in schools, The Washington Post (Washington) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2019/11/06/thats-why-we-exist-italys-government-becomes-first-mandate-climate-change-education-schools/>

<sup>4107</sup> Italian Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs Commits €1.3 m to further Peacebuilding Efforts; Inaugurates Girls School Block in Mayo, UNDP (Khartoum) 8 March 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.sd.undp.org/content/sudan/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2020/italian-deputy-minister-foreign-affairs-inaugurates-girls-school.html>

<sup>4108</sup> Coronavirus, 8.2 million to enhance distance learning through digital animators, Government of Italy (Rome) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/coronavirus-8-2-milioni-per-potenziare-la-didattica-a-distanza-attraverso-gli-animatori-digitali>

<sup>4109</sup> Distance learning, an additional EUR80 million from PON resources are coming in to purchase PCs and tablets in schools in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle. Azzolina: “We work to get to the last of our students,” Government of Italy (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/didattica-a-distanza-in-arrivo-altri-80-milioni-da-risorse-pon-per-l-acquisto-di-pc-e-tablet-nelle-scuole-del-i-ciclo-azzolina-lavoriamo-per-arrivare->

<sup>4110</sup> Distance learning, an additional EUR80 million from PON resources are coming in to purchase PCs and tablets in schools in the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle. Azzolina: “We work to get to the last of our students,” Government of Italy (Rome) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/didattica-a-distanza-in-arrivo-altri-80-milioni-da-risorse-pon-per-l-acquisto-di-pc-e-tablet-nelle-scuole-del-i-ciclo-azzolina-lavoriamo-per-arrivare->

<sup>4111</sup> Digital, approved School Plan: over EUR400 million for ultra-wide band. Azzolina: “Important step forward: We work to digitize the school”, Government of Italy (Rome) 5 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/digitale-approvato-piano-scuola-oltre-400-mln-per-banda-ultralarga-azzolina-passo-in-avanti-importante-lavoriamo-per-digitalizzare-la-scuola->

<sup>4112</sup> Digital, 29 million for smart classes in second-cycle schools, Azzolina: “Continued investment for innovation,” Government of Italy (Rome) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/digitale-29-milioni-per-le-smart-class-nelle-scuole-del-secondo-ciclo-br-pubblicato-l-avviso-pon-br-azzolina-prosegue-investimento-per-innovazione->

On 3 July 2020, the MIUR signed a decree to provide EUR855 million to the maintenance of educational infrastructure.<sup>4114</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the MIUR announced a budget of EUR236 million with the aim of guaranteeing access to education for high school students through the purchase of books.<sup>4115</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the MIUR announced a fund for the right to study, valued at EUR236 million, with the aim of purchasing books and teaching kits.<sup>4116</sup> Primary and high schools can apply to the fund to acquire books for their students.<sup>4117</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the MIUR adopted the National Fund for Integrated Education and Education System for 2020.<sup>4118</sup> This fund will provide EUR264 million to the autonomous regions of Trento and Bolzano for educational infrastructure, teachers' training, and children's educational services.<sup>4119</sup>

On 16 July 2020, the Senate approved more than EUR1600 million to restart educational activities after the suspension caused by COVID-19.<sup>4120</sup> These funds will be used for safety measures such as restoring class in schools, improving digital education, and assisting students with disabilities.<sup>4121</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4122</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the MIUR informed school administrations about the organizational and financial details of reopening school campuses.<sup>4123</sup> The MIUR will distribute masks, sanitizers and furniture needed to fulfil health requirements during COVID-19.<sup>4124</sup>

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<sup>4113</sup> Digital, 29 million for smart classes in second-cycle schools, Azzolina: "Continued investment for innovation," Government of Italy (Rome) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/digitale-29-milioni-per-le-smart-class-nelle-scuole-del-secondo-ciclo-br-pubblicato-l-avviso-pon-br-azzolina-prosegue-investimento-per-innovazione>

<sup>4114</sup> School, Azzolina signed a decree of EUR855 million for extraordinary support, Government of Italy (Rome) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-azzolina-firma-decreto-855-milioni-per-la-manutenzione-straordinaria>

<sup>4115</sup> Right to study, allocated EUR236 million for purchasing of textbooks for students and family, Government of Italy (Rome) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/diritto-allo-studio-stanziati-236-milioni-per-l-acquisto-di-libri-di-testo-azzolina-mettiamo-in-campo-azioni-concrete-per-studenti-e-famiglie>

<sup>4116</sup> Fund for the right to study, Government of Italy (Rome) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020.

<sup>4117</sup> Fund for the right to study, Government of Italy (Rome) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/fondi-per-il-diritto-allo-studio-stanziati-236-milioni-per-l-acquisto-di-libri-di-testo>

<sup>4118</sup> National Fund for Integrated Education and Education System from Birth to Six Years 2020, Government of Italy (Rome) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/piano-di-riparto-fondo-nazionale-per-il-sistema-integrato-di-educazione-e-di-istruzione-dalla-nascita-ai-sei-anni-e-f-2020>

<sup>4119</sup> The Minister of Education, Government of Italy (Rome) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 2 September 2020 [https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/2432359/D.M.53\\_30-06-2020.pdf/ac63117d-f4f4-7aaf-bf49-9aa1bad076fb?version=1.0&t=1594906387797](https://www.miur.gov.it/documents/20182/2432359/D.M.53_30-06-2020.pdf/ac63117d-f4f4-7aaf-bf49-9aa1bad076fb?version=1.0&t=1594906387797)

<sup>4120</sup> Green light of the Senate to relaunch decree: more than EUR1.6 million to class return, Government of Italy (Rome) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-via-libera-del-senato-al-decreto-rilancio-stanziati-oltre-1-6-miliardi-per-il-ritorno-in-classe>

<sup>4121</sup> Green light of the Senate to relaunch decree: more than EUR1.6 million to class return, Government of Italy (Rome) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-via-libera-del-senato-al-decreto-rilancio-stanziati-oltre-1-6-miliardi-per-il-ritorno-in-classe>

<sup>4122</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

Italy fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm human capital investment as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Italy has enhanced basic education, pledged to tackle gender inequality through technical and vocational training, and further promoted innovation in education by incorporating climate change and sustainable development into its curriculum. Furthermore, Italy has supported education for girls in Sudan.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Loyal Hallal and Santiago Ardisson*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 4 July 2019, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Shibayama Masahiko attended the G7 Education Ministers' meeting in Paris. He also visited the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Audrey Azoulay to discuss measures underway in the field of education.<sup>4125</sup>

On 9 July 2019, the government announced the theme of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7): "Advancing Africa's Development through People, Technology, and Innovation." This thematic focus aims to express growing interest in African development and highlight the strengths of Japan's assistance to Africa.<sup>4126</sup>

On 29 July 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant of JPY2.726 billion to the government of Myanmar for the Japan-Myanmar Aung San Vocational Training Institute. This institute aims to bring high-skilled labour in line with Myanmar's labour requirements and facilitate new positions for students and youth.<sup>4127</sup>

On 1 August 2019, the government pledged a grant of NAD42 million for equipment used in vocational and technical education and training in Namibia.<sup>4128</sup>

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<sup>4123</sup> Note to school leaders on distribution of masks and furnishings which will covers staff and students with regular deliveries based on the number of pupils, Government of Italy (Rome) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-nota-ai-dirigenti-scolastici-su-distribuzione-mascherine-e-arredi-fornitura-copre-personale-e-studenti-consegne-periodiche-sulla-base-del-numer>

<sup>4124</sup> School, known to school managers on the distribution of masks and furnishings. Supply covers staff and students, periodic deliveries based on the number of pupils, Government of Italy: Ministry of Education (Rome) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/scuola-nota-ai-dirigenti-scolastici-su-distribuzione-mascherine-e-arredi-fornitura-copre-personale-e-studenti-consegne-periodiche-sulla-base-del-numer>

<sup>4125</sup> MEXT Minister holds meeting with Director-General of UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology — Japan (Tokyo) 4 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.mext.go.jp/en/news/topics/detail/1419789.htm>

<sup>4126</sup> Announcement of the Theme of the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002510.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002510.html)

<sup>4127</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Myanmar: Contributing to human resource development through the development of a vocational training institute employing Japanese expertise, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 30 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190729\\_11\\_eg.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20190729_11_eg.html)

<sup>4128</sup> Japan pledges N\$42 million to Namibia's TVET, New Era Live (Windhoek) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://neweralive.na/posts/japan-pledges-n42-million-to-namibias-tvet>

On 2 August 2019, the First Council Meeting of the Turkish-Japanese Science and Technology University discussed the establishment of university in Turkey, in order to strengthen bilateral cooperation in education, science, technology, and academic exchange.<sup>4129</sup>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit in France, Japan and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4130</sup>

On 28 August 2019, the Ministry of Education held a ministerial seminar on science, technology, and innovation as part of TICAD7. This conference aims to promote dialogue between political leaders both domestic and foreign to Africa, and further facilitate sustainable development within the continent.<sup>4131</sup>

On 30 August 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reaffirmed Japan’s support to UNESCO, expressing that Japan will actively cooperate with the organization in education, culture, artificial intelligence, disaster risk reduction, and education for sustainable development, in particular with regards to Africa.<sup>4132</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the government signed the Partnership on Sustainable Connectivity and Quality Infrastructure, which aims to promote infrastructure development based on sustainability and equality. One dimension of this partnership concerns support for education and research development.<sup>4133</sup>

On 5 December 2019, JICA signed a Record of Discussions with the government of Bhutan for the Promotion of Technology Education and Diffusion through Digital Fabrication Laboratory (Fab-Lab).<sup>4134</sup> JICA aims to create new educational models that connect technological capabilities with the needs of industry via establishing Fab-Labs at the College of Science and Technology. Specifically, Fab-Labs will introduce digital fabrication technology and open innovation.<sup>4135</sup>

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<sup>4129</sup> The First Council Meeting of the Turkish-Japanese Science and Technology University (TJU), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 5 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002571.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002571.html)

<sup>4130</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4131</sup> Sisi will head 7th TICAD in Japan: Japan’s Prime Minister, Egypt Independent (Cairo) 28 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://egyptindependent.com/sisi-will-head-7th-ticad-in-japan-japans-prime-minister/>

<sup>4132</sup> Japan renews commitment to UNESCO through enhanced cooperation on artificial intelligence and cultural diversity, UNESCO (Paris) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://en.unesco.org/news/japan-renews-commitment-unesco-through-enhanced-cooperation-artificial-intelligence-and>

<sup>4133</sup> Meeting between Foreign Minister Motegi and European Union High Representative, European Commission Vice-President Mogherini, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e\\_000221.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press6e_000221.html)

The EU-Japan connectivity partnership: a sustainable initiative awaiting materialisation, Real Instituto Elcano (Madrid) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano\\_en/contenido?WCM\\_GLOBAL\\_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano\\_in/zonas\\_in/ari12-2020-esteban-armanini-eu-japan-connectivity-partnership-sustainable-initiative-awaiting-materialisation](http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_en/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/ari12-2020-esteban-armanini-eu-japan-connectivity-partnership-sustainable-initiative-awaiting-materialisation)

Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation Project with Bhutan: Support for developing new technical educational models through the introduction of digital fabrication technology and open innovation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191206\\_31\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191206_31_en.html)

Signing of Record of Discussions on Technical Cooperation Project with Bhutan: Support for developing new technical educational models through the introduction of digital fabrication technology and open innovation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191206\\_31\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191206_31_en.html)

On 12 December 2019, JICA signed a grant agreement with the government of Mozambique to provide JPY2.283 billion for the construction of secondary schools in the province of Zambezia. The project aims to establish four new secondary schools and improve educational facilities, in order to increase the province's low enrollment rate in comparison to the national average. In addition, this project will increase educational accessibility and foster the quality of learning by building libraries and laboratories. JICA Overseas Cooperation Volunteers will be dispatched to further improve education quality.<sup>4136</sup>

As of 10 January 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Education completed a ten-day program aimed at strengthening educational connections between Malaysia and Japan. Nine Malaysian educators visited three Japanese schools to practice the Education for Sustainable Development curriculum.<sup>4137</sup>

On 21 January 2020, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) released its plans to support the schooling of foreign children.<sup>4138</sup> This message is intended for local governments, some of which have designated that basic education in Japan is not compulsory for foreign or non-domestic children.<sup>4139</sup>

On 30 January 2020, in cooperation with the Department of Defense Education Activity and the Consulate General of the United States to Naha, the Okinawa Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held an English language training program for elementary school teachers in Okinawa.<sup>4140</sup> The program helped 83 teachers teach English, in preparation for English to become compulsory in all Japanese elementary schools starting in April 2020.<sup>4141</sup>

Japan fully complied with its commitment to invest in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. In the first pillar, Japan has enhanced basic education systems and strengthen quality assurance for teacher training. Moreover, Japan has funded the growth of vocational schools and language apprehension programs to encourage increased domestic school attendance. Lastly, Japan participated in international collaborations to facilitate investment in educational infrastructure and enhance equality and accessibility in education.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Harris Johnston*

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<sup>4136</sup> Signing of Grant Agreements with Mozambique: Contributing to the improvement of access and quality of secondary education and securing stable electric power in the northern interior region of the country, Japan International Cooperation Agency (Tokyo) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191212\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191212_41_en.html)

<sup>4137</sup> Japan hosts 10-day visit for educators from universities, religious schools, New Straits Times (Kuala Lumpur) 9 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.nst.com.my/education/2020/01/555393/japan-hosts-10-day-visit-educators-universities-religious-schools>

<sup>4138</sup> Ministry in push for foreign kids to go to school, learn Japanese, The Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ202001220051.html>

<sup>4139</sup> Ministry in push for foreign kids to go to school, learn Japanese, The Asahi Shimbun (Osaka) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ202001220051.html>

<sup>4140</sup> The Training program of English language teaching for elementary school teachers in Okinawa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002768.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002768.html)

<sup>4141</sup> The Training program of English language teaching for elementary school teachers in Okinawa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 3 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e\\_002768.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press4e_002768.html)

**Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 25 October 2019, as part of President Moon Jae-in's campaign to promote social fairness and reduce social inequality, the government announced its educational reform plans, which includes an abolition of all elite high schools nationwide.<sup>4142</sup> Set to take effect in 2025, the plan outlines the intent for schooling to become "general" and more accessible.<sup>4143</sup>

On 20 November 2019, at the Association of South East Asian Nations and Korea summit, the government reaffirmed its commitment to working towards human capital development. At this summit, Korea served as the co-chair of the Southeast Asia Regional Program Forum, and the theme of this meeting in 2020 was human capital development.<sup>4144</sup>

On 6 February 2020, the Ministry of Education released the 2020 Early Childhood Fee Support Plan, which aims to increase educational opportunities for low-income families.<sup>4145</sup> The program subsidizes the cost of attending private kindergartens and supports early childhood tuition and after-school courses.

On 29 April 2020, the Ministry of Education announced that it will provide unlimited data access to online educational platforms to increase the accessibility of education during COVID-19's transition to online teaching methods.<sup>4146</sup> The ministry announced that it will broadcast educational programs on television, providing an additional learning platform for students.<sup>4147</sup> Furthermore, this government initiative to support online teaching methods intends to distribute 316,000 digital devices to students from low-income households in support of remote learning.<sup>4148</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4149</sup>

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<sup>4142</sup> (LEAD) South Korea sets 'drastic' reform of college admission system in motion, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191025004151315>

<sup>4143</sup> South Korea to abolish elite high schools in 2025 to fix education disparity that causes social inequality, The Straits Times (Seoul) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/east-asia/south-korea-to-abolish-elite-high-schools-in-2025-to-fix-education-disparity-that>

<sup>4144</sup> [ASEAN-Korea summit] Rising Southeast Asia, region of strategic priority to OECD, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 20 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191119000933>

<sup>4145</sup> 2020 Early Childhood Fee Support Plan, Ministry of Education (Seoul) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 14 February 2020. <https://www.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=312&lev=0&statusYN=W&s=moe&m=03&opType=N&boardSeq=79685>

<sup>4146</sup> All-out efforts made to support students for online classes, Ministry of Education (Sejong) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020.

<http://english.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=265&boardSeq=80479&lev=0&searchType=null&statusYN=C&page=1&s=english&m=0301&opType=N>

<sup>4147</sup> All-out efforts made to support students for online classes, Ministry of Education (Sejong) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020.

<http://english.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=265&boardSeq=80479&lev=0&searchType=null&statusYN=C&page=1&s=english&m=0301&opType=N>

<sup>4148</sup> All-out efforts made to support students for online classes, Ministry of Education (Sejong) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 6 June 2020.

<http://english.moe.go.kr/boardCnts/view.do?boardID=265&boardSeq=80479&lev=0&searchType=null&statusYN=C&page=1&s=english&m=0301&opType=N>

<sup>4149</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

Korea partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm human capital investment as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Korea has emphasized early childhood development under the first pillar of the G20 Initiative, but it has not taken action to invest in education for creating innovation nor education for a resilient and inclusive future.

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Anushka Kurian*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 4 July 2019, the Ministry of Education and the government of Germany ratified their commitment to collaboration on the Mexican Dual Training Model, which will enhance youth training.<sup>4150</sup>

On 18 July 2019, the Ministry of Public Education announced that starting on 22 July 2019, it will teach three courses to improve the digital skills and pedagogical competences of teachers.<sup>4151</sup>

On 21 July 2019, the National Commission of Free Textbooks and the state government of Tabasco announced the distribution of 3,280,531 free textbooks to young people for the 2019-2020 school year. Of those textbooks, 4 million will be dedicated to special education.<sup>4152</sup>

On 1 August 2019, the Ministry of Education awarded scholarships to 315 young people, who will continue their higher education, research and projects in France. The scholarships were awarded to students from the Mexico Professional Technology Program and the Mexico France Engineers Technology Program.<sup>4153</sup>

On 9 August 2019, Secretary of Public Education Esteban Moctezuma Barragán launched the workshops of the Educational Extension Program as part of the new curriculum of the New Mexican School.<sup>4154</sup>

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<sup>4150</sup> Boletín No.94 Ratifican SEP y Alemania trabajo conjunto para impulsar educación dual y convertir a México en potencia económica, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 4 July 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-94-ratifican-sep-y-alemania-trabajo-conjunto-para-impulsar-educacion-dual-y-convertir-a-mexico-en-potencia-economica?idiom=es>

<sup>4151</sup> Boletín No.104 Impartirán SEP y Fundación Telefónica cursos a docentes en innovación educativa, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-104-impartiran-sep-y-fundacion-telefonica-cursos-a-docentes-en-innovacion-educativa?idiom=es>

<sup>4152</sup> Boletín No.107 Inician CONALITEG y gobierno de Tabasco distribución de libros de texto gratuitos para el ciclo escolar 2019-2020, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 21 July 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-107-inician-conaliteg-y-gobierno-de-tabasco-distribucion-de-libros-de-texto-gratuitos-para-el-ciclo-escolar-2019-2020?idiom=es>

<sup>4153</sup> Boletín No.114 Entrega SEP becas a 315 jóvenes mexicanos para que continúen estudios de educación superior en Francia, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-114-entrega-sep-becas-a-315-jovenes-mexicanos-para-que-continuen-estudios-de-educacion-superior-en-francia?idiom=es>

<sup>4154</sup> Boletín No.123 Inaugura Esteban Moctezuma Barragán talleres del Programa de Extensión Educativa, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-123-inaugura-esteban-moctezuma-barragan-talleres-del-programa-de-extension-educativa?idiom=es>



On 10 August 2019, Secretary Moctezuma reaffirmed the government's commitment to "the interculturality of education [to] promote harmonious coexistence between people and communities for the respect and recognition of differences and rights in a framework of social inclusion and joint creation of culture." The Ministry of Public Education will provide educational materials for literacy in 64 native languages.<sup>4155</sup>

On 9 September 2019, Secretary Moctezuma met with the Director of the Finnish National Agency of Education Olli-Pekka Heinonen to discuss bilateral cooperation on educational matters.<sup>4156</sup>

On 28 October 2019, Assistant Secretary for Basic Education Marcos Bucio Mújica stated that the constitutional reforms to Article 3 require educational authorities to develop a new approach that will influence the conditions of students, particularly those in conditions of social vulnerability. Secretary Moctezuma acknowledged that before the reform, children under the age of three were not properly cared for by public policies. This reform aims to improve early childhood education.<sup>4157</sup>

On 13 November 2019, Secretary Moctezuma met with French Minister of National Education and Youth Jean Michel Blanquer to confirm their educational cooperation. The two parties agreed to strengthen dual education that combines student training with active participation in the industry. They further reaffirmed the importance of educational inclusion in marginalized, indigenous and migrant areas.<sup>4158</sup>

On 14 November 2019, Secretary Moctezuma affirmed Mexico's commitment to working with UNESCO to achieve the 2030 Agenda, specifically with regards to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning.<sup>4159</sup>

On 18 November 2019, Secretary Moctezuma and Finnish Minister of Education Li Sigrid Andersson agreed to promote the strengthening of educational programs for Mexican youth.

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<sup>4155</sup> Boletín No.124 Reciben más de 64 mil personas de comunidades indígenas, servicios de alfabetización, primaria y secundaria del INEA, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 10 August 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-124-reciben-mas-de-64-mil-personas-de-comunidades-indigenas-servicios-de-alfabetizacion-primaria-y-secundaria-del-inea?idiom=es>

<sup>4156</sup> Boletín No.150 Se fortalecen la cooperación y el diálogo en materia educativa con Finlandia: Moctezuma Barragán, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-150-se-fortalecen-la-cooperacion-y-el-dialogo-en-materia-educativa-con-finlandia-moctezuma-barragan?idiom=es>

<sup>4157</sup> Boletín No.195 Garantiza reforma constitucional en materia educativa el derecho a la educación en la primera infancia: SEP, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-195-garantiza-reforma-constitucional-en-materia-educativa-el-derecho-a-la-educacion-en-la-primera-infancia-sep?idiom=es>

<sup>4158</sup> Boletín No.212 Se reúne el Secretario de Educación Pública, con el Ministro de Educación Nacional y Juventud de la República Francesa, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-212-se-reune-el-secretario-de-educacion-publica-de-mexico-esteban-moctezuma-barragan-con-el-ministro-de-educacion-nacional-y-juventud-de-la-republica-francesa-jean-michel-blanquer?idiom=es>

<sup>4159</sup> Destaca Moctezuma Barragán ante Asamblea General de la UNESCO y ministros de educación del mundo, el apoyo a educación indígena y especial, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/destaca-moctezuma-barragan-ante-asamblea-general-de-la-unesco-y-ministros-de-educacion-del-mundo-el-apoyo-a-educacion-indigena-y-especial?idiom=es>

Barragán and Andersson discussed cooperation in training teachers by engaging Finnish specialists, who will travel to Mexico to share their experiences.<sup>4160</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the National Commission of Free Textbooks and the Institute of Mexicans Abroad distributed 163,000 textbooks to Mexican migrants in the US. These textbooks are meant to teach Mexicans abroad about their country, customs, and traditions, encourage the use of their mother tongue, and improve education and training resources.<sup>4161</sup>

On 4 December 2019, Secretary Moctezuma emphasized the Ministry of Education's focus on open and distance higher education as an alternative learning experience.<sup>4162</sup>

On 9 December 2019, the Under-Secretary of Higher Education held consultations on the preliminary draft of the General Law of Higher Education. This new law will take into account comments and opinions from teachers and academics by reforming the educational legal framework and transforming the policies of higher education, science and technology.<sup>4163</sup>

On 16 December 2019, Secretary Moctezuma instructed the National Institute for Adult Education to develop a quality education model that responds to the interests and needs of the prison population and promotes their social reintegration.<sup>4164</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Secretary Moctezuma and French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs Yves Le Drian signed a cooperation agreement to promote the French language in Mexico through a pilot program taught in 34 public high schools.<sup>4165</sup>

On 3 January 2020, Secretary Moctezuma stated that a priority for the government is to train professionals who can contribute to building a just and peaceful society. In order to realize this goal,

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<sup>4160</sup> Boletín No. 215 Acuerda Esteban Moctezuma Barragán fortalecimiento de programas y proyectos educativos con Finlandia, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-215-acuerda-esteban-moctezuma-barragan-fortalecimiento-de-programas-y-proyectos-educativos-con-finlandia?idiom=es>

<sup>4161</sup> Boletín No. 219 Distribuye CONALITEG 163 mil libros de texto gratuitos para migrantes mexicanos en Estados Unidos, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-219-distribuye-conaliteg-163-mil-libros-de-texto-gratuitos-para-migrantes-mexicanos-en-estados-unidos?idiom=es>

<sup>4162</sup> Boletín No. 240 Promueve SEP educación superior abierta y a distancia como alternativa para el aprendizaje de jóvenes y adultos, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-240-promueve-sep-educacion-superior-abierta-y-a-distancia-como-alternativa-para-el-aprendizaje-de-jovenes-y-adultos?idiom=es>

<sup>4163</sup> Boletín No. 244 Continúan los foros de consulta del anteproyecto de la Ley General de Educación Superior, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-244-continuan-los-foros-de-consulta-del-anteproyecto-de-la-ley-general-de-educacion-superior?idiom=es>

<sup>4164</sup> Boletín No.250 Atiende SEP con servicios de educación básica a más de 15 mil personas en centros de readaptación social y tutelares del país, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-250-atiende-sep-con-servicios-de-educacion-basica-a-mas-de-15-mil-personas-en-centros-de-readaptacion-social-y-tutelares-del-pais?idiom=es>

<sup>4165</sup> Boletín No.255 Firman SEP y Ministerio para Europa y Asuntos Exteriores de Francia, acuerdo para la enseñanza del idioma francés, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-255-firman-sep-y-ministerio-para-europa-y-asuntos-exteriores-de-francia-acuerdo-para-la-ensenanza-del-idioma-frances?idiom=es>

the Ministry of Education will focus on ensuring that all young people have the same opportunities to access higher education, cutting-edge knowledge, and innovative technologies.<sup>4166</sup>

On 8 January 2020, the Ministry of Public Education hosted the meeting of Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, where Secretary Moctezuma discussed the change of course of education in Mexico. Secretary Barragán stated that Mexico's goal is to produce "inclusive individuals, with curious spirits to discover the secrets of science and technology, environmentally friendly, innovative and productive, with social responsibility and desires to cultivate physically, intellectually, environmentally, emotionally, culturally and socially." Furthermore, Secretary Barragán announced that more than 10 million scholarships have been awarded to students and families of basic, upper and higher education, and special scholarships have been allocated to at-risk individuals.<sup>4167</sup>

On 10 January 2020, the Secretariat of Public Education and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America signed a framework collaboration agreement, increasing actions that contribute to the objectives of sustainable development and social inclusion.<sup>4168</sup>

On 20 January 2020, Secretary Moctezuma announced a technology project with augmented reality and artificial intelligence (ARGeo). This project is designed by researchers from the National Technological Institute of Mexico and will seek to improve student learning. Specifically, ARGeo develops learning environments for geometry and chemistry, and it will be put into practice in summer school in 2020.<sup>4169</sup>

On 24 February 2020, Secretary Moctezuma announced that the goal of the New Mexican School is to guarantee equal opportunities for students in marginalized areas of the country. Secretary Barragán acknowledged the importance of technological education to achieving the 2030 Agenda.<sup>4170</sup>

On 25 February 2020, the National Commission for the Continuous Improvement of Education met with the secretaries of education of the states and of Mexico City to discuss methods to improve

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<sup>4166</sup> Boletín No.3 La SEP está comprometida para que todos los jóvenes tengan las mismas oportunidades de ingreso a la educación superior, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-3-la-sep-esta-comprometida-para-que-todos-los-jovenes-tengan-las-mismas-oportunidades-de-ingreso-a-la-educacion-superior?idiom=es>

<sup>4167</sup> Boletín No. 8 Se busca construir a través de la educación un país inclusivo, productivo y democrático: Esteban Moctezuma Barragán, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-8-se-busca-construir-a-traves-de-la-educacion-un-pais-inclusivo-productivo-y-democratico-esteban-moctezuma-barragan?idiom=es>

<sup>4168</sup> Boletín No. 9 Firman SEP y CEPAL convenio de colaboración para contribuir con los objetivos para el desarrollo sostenible, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-9-firman-sep-y-cepal-convenio-de-colaboracion-para-contribuir-con-los-objetivos-para-el-desarrollo-sostenible?idiom=es>

<sup>4169</sup> Boletín No. 18 Crean investigadores del TecNM tecnología con realidad aumentada para el fortalecimiento del aprendizaje, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-18-crean-investigadores-del-tecnm-tecnologia-con-realidad-aumentada-para-el-fortalecimiento-del-aprendizaje?idiom=es>

<sup>4170</sup> Boletín No. 54 Promueve Tecnológico Nacional de México una educación de calidad e incluyente en zonas marginadas del país: SEP, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-54-promueve-tecnologico-nacional-de-mexico-una-educacion-de-calidad-e-incluyente-en-zonas-marginadas-del-pais-sep?idiom=es>

basic and upper secondary education. The discussion emphasized training teachers, improving working conditions, monitoring policies and increasing the quality of education.<sup>4171</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Ministry of Public Education, the National Association of Universities and Institutions of Higher Education and the Germany Ministry of Education and Research met to discuss the implementation of actions to strengthen dual education in Mexico. Secretary Moctezuma emphasized the importance of innovation in education and proposed actions such as workshops, study tours to Germany, and training courses.<sup>4172</sup>

On 1 March 2020, the Ministry of Public Education held a conference with educational authorities, academics, researchers and experts to discuss building a better curriculum that incorporates sustainable development policies.<sup>4173</sup>

On 12 March 2020, Secretary Moctezuma met with 1992 Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú Tum to discuss and reaffirm the government's commitment to advancing education on indigenous culture and languages. Acknowledging the country's history of excluding indigenous communities, Secretary Barragán spoke about how the New Mexican School guarantees access to all levels of education and prioritizes indigenous peoples' participation.<sup>4174</sup>

On 13 March 2020, El Instituto Nacional para la Educación de los Adultos (INEA) announced educational services in 34 states in the United States for Mexican people 15 years and older, including in penitentiary centers. INEA's services include online training, technical assistance, the provision of textbooks and certificates, and literacy services.<sup>4175</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Ministry of Public Education, as part of the Schools Mexico program, delivered 9000 free textbooks for girls and boys in basic education in Guatemala.<sup>4176</sup>

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<sup>4171</sup> Comunicado. La coordinación con autoridades educativas del país es fundamental para mejorar la educación básica y media superior: MEJOREDUE, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/comunicado-la-coordinacion-con-autoridades-educativas-del-pais-es-fundamental-para-mejorar-la-educacion-basica-y-media-superior-mejoredu?idiom=es>

<sup>4172</sup> Boletín No. 57 Fortalecen Ministerio de Educación alemán y SEP educación dual en los sectores automotriz, aeronáutico y especial, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-57-fortalecen-ministerio-de-educacion-aleman-y-sep-educacion-dual-en-los-sectores-automotriz-aeronautico-y-especial?idiom=es>

<sup>4173</sup> Boletín No. 60 Deben garantizar planes y programas de estudio el desarrollo de personas con un alto sentido de responsabilidad: SEP, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 1 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-60-deben-garantizar-planes-y-programas-de-estudio-el-desarrollo-de-personas-con-un-alto-sentido-de-responsabilidad-sep?idiom=es>

<sup>4174</sup> Boletín No. 70 Reconoce Premio Nobel de la Paz impulso de la educación hacia pueblos originarios en México, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-70-reconoce-premio-nobel-de-la-paz-impulso-de-la-educacion-hacia-pueblos-origarios-en-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>4175</sup> Boletín No. 71 Ofrece INEA servicios educativos a connacionales en 250 plazas comunitarias de Estados Unidos, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-71-ofrece-inea-servicios-educativos-a-connacionales-en-250-plazas-comunitarias-de-estados-unidos?idiom=es>

<sup>4176</sup> Boletín No. 73 Dona SEP Libros de Texto Gratuitos para 3 mil niñas y niños de educación básica de Guatemala, Secretaría de Educación Pública (Mexico City) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-73-dona-sep-libros-de-texto-gratuitos-para-3-mil-ninas-y-ninos-de-educacion-basica-de-guatemala?idiom=es>

On 28 March 2020, Secretary Moctezuma announced a digital skills educational program for teachers of the National Education System.<sup>4177</sup> The program will provide courses through the webpage Televisión Educativa.<sup>4178</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Benito Juárez National Welfare Scholarship Coordination presented its program for the current year.<sup>4179</sup> This program aims to provide scholarships to primary, secondary, and post-secondary students.<sup>4180</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the Secretary of Public Education (SEP) presented the results of the program “La Escuela es Nuestra” (The School is Ours), which provides resources to schools and communities to invest in clean water, bathrooms, and cleaning materials.<sup>4181</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the SEP announced that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the “Tecnológico Nacional de México” (National Technological of Mexico) will offer online educational programs, providing open access to four publishing companies and 15 digital libraries.<sup>4182</sup>

On 8 July 2020, the SEP announced that it sent resources to states for the second semester of the 2019-2020 School Year for the Full-Time Schools program.<sup>4183</sup> This funding aims to provide food to students and offer additional compensation to teachers.<sup>4184</sup>

On 2 August 2020, the SEP signed an agreement with Televisa Group, Tv Azteca and Image Group to offer virtual classes through their platforms.<sup>4185</sup> This agreement was signed with the view to bring virtual classes to approximately 30 million children and young students in the 2020-2021 academic cycle.<sup>4186</sup>

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<sup>4177</sup> SEP launched educational program on digital skill for teachers of the national system, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-82-lanza-sep-programa-de-capacitacion-en-competencias-digitales-para-docentes-del-sistema-educativo-nacional?idiom=es>

<sup>4178</sup> SEP launched educational program on digital skill for teachers of the national system, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-82-lanza-sep-programa-de-capacitacion-en-competencias-digitales-para-docentes-del-sistema-educativo-nacional?idiom=es>

<sup>4179</sup> Scholarship for welfare “Benito Juárez” contributes to educative equity said Esteban Moctezuma Barragan, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-126-contribuyen-becas-para-el-bienestar-benito-juarez-a-la-equidad-educativa-esteban-moctezuma-barragan?idiom=es>

<sup>4180</sup> “Benito Juárez scholarship for welfare” contributes to educative equity said Esteban Moctezuma Barragan, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 15 May 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-126-contribuyen-becas-para-el-bienestar-benito-juarez-a-la-equidad-educativa-esteban-moctezuma-barragan?idiom=es>

<sup>4181</sup> Program “La Escuela es Nuestra” create jobs to generate welfare in a transition to new normal, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-158-crea-la-escuela-es-nuestra-empleos-importantes-para-generar-bienestar-en-una-etapa-de-transicion-hacia-la-nueva-normalidad?idiom=es>

<sup>4182</sup> National Mexican Technological shows important contributions to academic innovation during the pandemic of Covid-19, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-175-demuestra-tecnm-importantes-aportes-a-la-innovacion-academica-durante-la-pandemia-por-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>4183</sup> SEP send the payment of the second semester 2020 of the full-time schools’ program, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-sep-no-182-entrega-sep-a-estados-pago-del-segundo-semester-del-ciclo-escolar-2019-2020-del-programa-escuelas-de-tiempo-completo?idiom=es>

<sup>4184</sup> SEP Education send the payment of the second semester 2020 of the full-time schools’ program, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-sep-no-182-entrega-sep-a-estados-pago-del-segundo-semester-del-ciclo-escolar-2019-2020-del-programa-escuelas-de-tiempo-completo?idiom=es>

On 9 August 2020, the SEP announced 120 million printed textbooks under the program “Aprendé en casa” (Learning at Home).<sup>4187</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4188</sup>

Mexico fully complied with its commitment to invest in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Specifically, Mexico invested in digital education to promote innovation, provided scholarships and investment to strengthen the inclusiveness of educational infrastructure, and adapted the educational system to the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to engaging in international partnerships, Mexico has also made efforts to enhance early childhood development and basic education, improve skill-based education for innovation, and highlight the importance of educational accessibility for girls and marginalized communities.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Sonja Dobson and Santiago Ardisson*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 20 December 2019, Deputy Prime Minister for Social Policy, Labour, Health and Pension Provision Tatyana Golikova announced that the first year of implementation of the national project in education was successful. Government spending resulted in 15 mobile quantoriums or technoparks, 26 industrial parks, 21 information technology cube centres and 2,049 “growth points,” which are educational and scientific centers embedded in rural schools. The project aims to spread awareness about the digital economy and the Fourth Industrial Revolution throughout schools in remote rural areas.<sup>4189</sup>

On 18 May 2020, the government allocated over RUB7.6 billion in payments to social workers, including tutors and teachers.<sup>4190</sup> This benefit is designed to support social workers affected by COVID-19.<sup>4191</sup>

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<sup>4185</sup> Televisa reached an agreement in benefit of education in Mexico, *El Economista* (Mexico City) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/empresas/Televisa-alcanza-acuerdo-en-beneficio-de-la-educacion-en-Mexico-20200803-0099.html>

<sup>4186</sup> Televisa reached an agreement in benefit of education in Mexico, *El Economista* (Mexico City) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.eleconomista.com.mx/empresas/Televisa-alcanza-acuerdo-en-beneficio-de-la-educacion-en-Mexico-20200803-0099.html>

<sup>4187</sup> SEP reports the delivery of free textbook to the country, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 9 August 2020. Access Date: 26 August 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/sep/es/articulos/boletin-no-214-reporta-sep-la-entrega-de-120-millones-de-libros-de-texto-gratuitos-en-todo-el-pais?idiom=es>

<sup>4188</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4189</sup> Голикова назвала успешным первый год реализации нацпроекта "Образование" [Golikova nazvala uspeshnym pervyy god realizatsii natsproyekta "Obrazovaniye"], *Tass* (Moscow) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://tass.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/7388835>

<sup>4190</sup> The Government allocates over 7.6 billion roubles for additional payments to social workers, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Moscow) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <http://government.ru/en/docs/39697/>

On 25 May 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed a government resolution amending the Federal Targeted Investment Programme.<sup>4192</sup> Pursuant to this resolution, new decisions will now be made by the Presidium of the Government Commission on Regional Development. This amendment seeks to minimize bureaucratic procedures and “make it possible to expedite construction and to open badly needed social facilities sooner.”<sup>4193</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the Ministry of Education launched retraining programs for those who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. This initiative plans to provide retraining and advanced training for 110,000 people in the program’s first stage, with potential future coverage of up to 500,000 people.<sup>4194</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin signed an order allocating RUB15.8 billion to educational, scientific, and medical institutions.<sup>4195</sup> The funds will be allocated from the reserve fund of the government and strive to compensate for the increased costs and decreased income of such institutions due to COVID-19.<sup>4196</sup>

On 13 July 2020, President Vladimir Putin announced that the deadline for the country’s USD360 billion national projects agenda will be delayed by six years and an additional three months for the government to draw up new plans.<sup>4197</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4198</sup>

Russia partially complied with its commitment to invest in human capital as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Through its efforts to prepare for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Russia complied with the G20 Initiative’s emphasis on education for innovation. Through payments and enhanced training for stakeholders affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia complied with the pillar of education for sustainable development and inclusive growth. However, Russia did not take any actions that contribute to education for resilient and inclusive futures, thus complying with two of the three pillars of the present commitment.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Dmitriy Frolovskiy and Erfan Ebsan*

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<sup>4191</sup> The Government allocates over 7.6 billion roubles for additional payments to social workers, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (Moscow) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <http://government.ru/en/docs/39697/>

<sup>4192</sup> Meeting with deputy ministers on current issues, Government House (Moscow) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39746/>

<sup>4193</sup> Meeting with deputy ministers on current issues, Government House (Moscow) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 14 July 2020. <http://government.ru/en/news/39746/>

<sup>4194</sup> Ministry of Education launches retraining programs for those who have lost their jobs, The Ministry of Education (Moscow) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <https://edu.gov.ru/en/press/2169/ministry-of-education-launches-retraining-programs-for-those-who-have-lost-their-jobs/>

<sup>4195</sup> 15.8 billion rubles will be allocated to support educational, scientific, and medical institutions, State Duma (Moscow) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48836/>

<sup>4196</sup> 15.8 billion rubles will be allocated to support educational, scientific, and medical institutions, State Duma (Moscow) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 16 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48836/>

<sup>4197</sup> Russia Resets Ambitious National Development Plan, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 13 July 2020. Access Date: 13 July 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/07/13/russia-resets-ambitious-national-development-plan-a70857>

<sup>4198</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 10 July 2019, Saudi Arabia hosted a conference at the United Nations headquarters to discuss “the importance of quality education in increasing women’s participation in the labor force.”<sup>4199</sup>

On 30 August 2019, Saudi Arabia issued a decree to create an artificial intelligence (AI) center, which will “enhance the drive toward innovation and digital transformation in Saudi Arabia.”<sup>4200</sup> The Minister of Communications and Information Technology Abdulla Al-Sawaha stated that AI will improve productivity and stimulate entrepreneurship.<sup>4201</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education agreed to expand the curriculum of government and private schools to include culture and arts.<sup>4202</sup>

On 12 November 2019, at the seventh meeting of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals for Education 2030, Minister of Education Hamad Al-Asheikh stated that Saudi Arabia will commit itself to the fourth objective of the UNESCO 2030 agenda.<sup>4203</sup> This includes “ensuring equitable and comprehensive provision of quality education for displaced and affected people, improving the quality of teaching and learning, increasing funding for education and innovating its use.”<sup>4204</sup> Among these three policies, Saudi Arabia will emphasize improving the quality of teaching and learning by reforming its school curriculum and the assessment of teachers.<sup>4205</sup>

On 16 December 2019, Saudi Arabia hosted the first meeting for the G20 Education Working Group, which focused on “providing fair and high-quality educational opportunities from an early age, and on internationalizing children’s education.”<sup>4206</sup>

On 23 December 2019, Minister of Education Hamad Al-Asheikh pledged to re-adjust the country’s education system by providing vocational training in community colleges to meet the demands of the job market.<sup>4207</sup>

On 4 February 2020, Saudi Arabia approved a program to set up eleven new cultural development authorities.<sup>4208</sup> Specifically, the authority responsible for theater and performing arts will adopt vocational training programs.<sup>4209</sup>

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<sup>4199</sup> ‘Quality education’ key to boosting Saudi women’s workforce participation, Arab News (New York) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1524411/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4200</sup> AI center confirms Saudi Arabia’s drive toward innovative future, Arab News (Riyadh) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1548051/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4201</sup> AI center confirms Saudi Arabia’s drive toward innovative future, Arab News (Riyadh) 1 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1548051/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4202</sup> Culture and arts set to be part of Kingdom school curriculum, Saudi Gazette (Riyadh) 7 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.saudigazette.com.sa/article/582022>

<sup>4203</sup> We seek to improve quality of teaching, Saudi education minister tells UNESCO meeting, Arab News (Paris) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1583821/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4204</sup> We seek to improve quality of teaching, Saudi education minister tells UNESCO meeting, Arab News (Paris) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1583821/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4205</sup> We seek to improve quality of teaching, Saudi education minister tells UNESCO meeting, Arab News (Paris) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1583821/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4206</sup> G20 Education Working Group holds first meeting, Arab News (Riyadh) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1600991/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4207</sup> Jobs market ‘will drive Saudi education,’ says education minister, Arab News (Riyadh) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1602796/saudi-arabia>



On 28 March 2020, the Ministry of Education implemented a virtual learning program for six million students to provide them with five options for distant learning.<sup>4210</sup> Educational tools were also extended to students who lack internet access by making distant learning tools available on television.<sup>4211</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Education Minister Hamad bin Mohammed Al-Sheikh announced that the Ministry of Education will continue to enhance and support the use of technology for e-learning by providing “live educational broadcasts through iEN, the National Education Portal [as well as through] YouTube channels, the Future Gate initiative...and the Unified Education System.”<sup>4212</sup> These efforts seek to promote distant learning and ensure that learning continues during the pandemic.<sup>4213</sup>

On 27 June 2020, Minister Al-Sheikh stated that Saudi Arabia will “support public and private efforts to sustain education continuity for all by leveraging new pedagogical methods.”<sup>4214</sup> He further committed to “working toward stronger and more innovative approaches to build resilience into our education systems and improve teaching and learning” at the G20 Education Ministers meeting.<sup>4215</sup> At this meeting, Saudi Arabia pledged to engage in the Education Working Group and discuss the effects of crises on education and appropriate responses.<sup>4216</sup> Saudi Arabia also pledged to continue its work with G20 members and “invited countries, and regional and international organizations to support global education systems.”<sup>4217</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4218</sup>

On 16 September 2020, Minister Al-Sheikh introduced two digital colleges for women, which will provide training programs on “network systems management, media technology, software, the Internet of things, smart cities, robotics technology, artificial intelligence and machine learning.”<sup>4219</sup>

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<sup>4208</sup> Saudi Cabinet launches 11 new cultural development authorities for Kingdom, Arab News (Jeddah) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1622901/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4209</sup> Saudi Cabinet launches 11 new cultural development authorities for Kingdom, Arab News (Jeddah) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1622901/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4210</sup> Saudi Education Ministry takes on distance learning of 6 million students in 10 days, Arab News (Jeddah) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1648561/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4211</sup> Saudi Education Ministry takes on distance learning of 6 million students in 10 days, Arab News (Jeddah) 28 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1648561/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4212</sup> Saudi education minister highlights successful use of distance learning during pandemic, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1687916/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4213</sup> Saudi education minister highlights successful use of distance learning during pandemic, Arab News (Riyadh) 11 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1687916/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4214</sup> G20 education ministers hold extraordinary meeting, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1696586/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4215</sup> G20 education ministers hold extraordinary meeting, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1696586/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4216</sup> G20 education ministers hold extraordinary meeting, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1696586/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4217</sup> G20 education ministers hold extraordinary meeting, Arab News (Riyadh) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1696586/saudi-arabia>

<sup>4218</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4219</sup> Saudi education minister opens two digital colleges for women, Arab News (Riyadh) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1735796/saudi-arabia>

Saudi Arabia fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to human capital investment as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Saudi Arabia fulfilled the first pillar of the G20 Initiative, to invest in quality education for achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth, by investing in multiple distant learning mechanisms and reaffirming its commitment to early childhood training. Saudi Arabia fulfilled the second pillar of the G20 Initiative, to invest in education for creating innovation, by creating digital colleges for women that specialize in training programs. Third, Saudi Arabia also promoted vocational training programs and pledged to work alongside the international community in providing quality education for marginalized and disadvantaged groups.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Layal Hallal*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 9 July 2019, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga presented the Department of Basic Education's annual performance plan.<sup>4220</sup> Over the next five years, the department will implement the Early Childhood Development system.<sup>4221</sup> The system enforces "two years of compulsory schooling before starting Grade 1" to teach foundational literacy and numeric skills.<sup>4222</sup>

On 9 July 2019, Minister Motshekga announced the establishment of the Computer Applications Technology program.<sup>4223</sup> Over the next five years, this program will train teachers in technology and coding and incorporate these skills into Grade 10-12 curriculums.<sup>4224</sup>

On 9 July 2019, Minister Motshekga announced that the General Education Certificate (GEC) is being finalized and will be piloted in 2020.<sup>4225</sup> The GEC is received after completing Grade nine.<sup>4226</sup> The GEC allows students to choose between three streams: an academic stream, a technical vocational stream, and a technical or occupational stream.<sup>4227</sup>

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<sup>4220</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4221</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4222</sup> Big Changes Coming to South Africa, BusinessTech (Johannesburg) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/329507/big-changes-coming-to-south-african-schools/>

<sup>4223</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4224</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4225</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4226</sup> Department of Basic Education 2019/20 Annual Performance Plan, with Minister, Parliamentary Monitoring Group (Johannesburg) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://pmg.org.za/committee-meeting/28524/>

<sup>4227</sup> Basic Education on General Education Certificate Misleading Reports, South African Government (Johannesburg) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-general-education-certificate-misleading-reports-27-sep-2019-0000>

On 18 February 2020, Minister Motshekga announced that the Coding and Robotics Curriculum is being piloted in Grades R-3 and will be further implemented in all Grades R-9 by 2022.<sup>4228</sup> This curriculum intends to prepare students for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and equip students with useful digital skills for future career development.<sup>4229</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Minister for the Public Service and Administration Senzo Mchunu suspended all in-person training provided by the National School of Government.<sup>4230</sup> In lieu, training will be conducted using online platforms.<sup>4231</sup> This safety measure intends to protect students and professionals in the public sector during the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>4232</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Minister Motshekga spoke at a press conference following a meeting with the Council of Education Ministers.<sup>4233</sup> Minister Motshekga announced new resources made available by the Council of Education to support students during the lockdown.<sup>4234</sup> These resources include broadcasted lessons, learning programs and technical assistance provided by technology carriers.<sup>4235</sup>

On 30 March 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande attended UNESCO's Virtual Ministerial Dialogue on COVID-19 and Open Science. Nzimande pledged to support and contribute to UNESCO's research and "develop appropriate education and information interventions" domestically.<sup>4236</sup>

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<sup>4228</sup> It will soon be compulsory for South African kids to start school at an earlier age — new laws to be tabled this year, BusinessTech (Johannesburg) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2020.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/375375/it-will-soon-be-compulsory-for-south-african-kids-to-start-school-at-an-earlier-age-new-laws-to-be-tabled-this-year/>

<sup>4229</sup> It will soon be compulsory for South African kids to start school at an earlier age — new laws to be tabled this year, BusinessTech (Johannesburg) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 5 March 2020.

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/government/375375/it-will-soon-be-compulsory-for-south-african-kids-to-start-school-at-an-earlier-age-new-laws-to-be-tabled-this-year/>

<sup>4230</sup> School of Government suspends face-to-face training session, National School of Government (Pretoria) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-suspends-face-face-training-session-20-mar-2020-0000>

<sup>4231</sup> School of Government suspends face-to-face training session, National School of Government (Pretoria) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-suspends-face-face-training-session-20-mar-2020-0000>

<sup>4232</sup> School of Government suspends face-to-face training session, National School of Government (Pretoria) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/school-government-suspends-face-face-training-session-20-mar-2020-0000>

<sup>4233</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga on Basic Education Sector Plans to support learners during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-plans-support-learners-during-covid-19>

<sup>4234</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga on Basic Education Sector Plans to support learners during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-plans-support-learners-during-covid-19>

<sup>4235</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga on Basic Education Sector Plans to support learners during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-basic-education-sector-plans-support-learners-during-covid-19>

<sup>4236</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: UNESCO Virtual Ministerial Dialogue on Coronavirus COVID-19 and Open Science, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-unesco-virtual-ministerial-dialogue-coronavirus-covid-19-and-open>

On 9 April 2020, the Department of Basic Education launched an educational program via television and radio in partnership with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.<sup>4237</sup> The COVID-19 Learner Support program will deliver instruction on core curriculum subjects and provide additional support to students preparing for exams.<sup>4238</sup> This program “is part of the broader efforts to prevent a total loss of school year.”<sup>4239</sup>

On 20 April 2020, the National Financial Aid Scheme established a business plan “to facilitate uninterrupted funding to students, resolution of student applications queries, processing of appeals and general assistance to institutions with NSFAS administration.”<sup>4240</sup> This plan intends to support students who are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4241</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the Department of Basic Education partnered with 1KZN and Soweto TV to expand the STEM Lockdown Digital School into community television.<sup>4242</sup> These channels will air learning segments in conjunction with the COVID-19 Learner Support Program.<sup>4243</sup> This program aims to increase access to remote learning, in light of a “growth in demand from learners and parents who had appealed for assistance to access the support on alternative platforms.”<sup>4244</sup>

On 19 May 2020, Minister Motshekga spoke at a press conference regarding the status of reopening plans.<sup>4245</sup> Minister Moshtekga announced that the Department of Basic Education will implement a phased return commencing on 1 June 2020.<sup>4246</sup>

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<sup>4237</sup> Basic Education and SABC launch Coronavirus COVID-19 TV and radio curriculum support programmes for learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-and-sabc%2%A0launch%2%A0coronavirus-covid-19-tv-and-radio-curriculum-support>

<sup>4238</sup> Basic Education and SABC launch Coronavirus COVID-19 TV and radio curriculum support programmes for learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-and-sabc%2%A0launch%2%A0coronavirus-covid-19-tv-and-radio-curriculum-support>

<sup>4239</sup> Basic Education and SABC launch Coronavirus COVID-19 TV and radio curriculum support programmes for learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-and-sabc%2%A0launch%2%A0coronavirus-covid-19-tv-and-radio-curriculum-support>

<sup>4240</sup> NSFAS on student allowance during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-student-allowance-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-20-apr-2020-0000>

<sup>4241</sup> NSFAS on student allowance during COVID-19 Coronavirus lockdown, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 20 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-student-allowance-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-20-apr-2020-0000>

<sup>4242</sup> Basic Education expands STEM digital school during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-expansion-stem-digital-school-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-21-apr>

<sup>4243</sup> Basic Education expands STEM digital school during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-expansion-stem-digital-school-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-21-apr>

<sup>4244</sup> Basic Education expands STEM digital school during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-expansion-stem-digital-school-during-covid-19-coronavirus-lockdown-21-apr>

<sup>4245</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Coronavirus Covid 19 preparations for re-opening of schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-coronavirus-covid-19-preparations-re-opening-schools-19-may-2020>

<sup>4246</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Coronavirus Covid 19 preparations for re-opening of schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-coronavirus-covid-19-preparations-re-opening-schools-19-may-2020>

On 1 June 2020, Minister Motshekga released guidelines provided by the Council of Education Ministers.<sup>4247</sup> These guidelines intend to support the education sector as it enters the first stage of reopening.<sup>4248</sup>

On 17 June 2020, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development issued a statement encouraging victims of apartheid identified by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to apply for financial assistance for basic education, higher education and training.<sup>4249</sup> This announcement aims to provide equal access to education, regardless of background.<sup>4250</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the National School of Government and Higher Education Institutions launched a joint initiative “to provide management training for public servants nationwide.”<sup>4251</sup> The training program targets women and persons with disabilities to ensure that marginalized groups receive institutional support.<sup>4252</sup>

On 23 June 2020, Minister Motshekga consulted with officials to devise a reopening plan for students with special educational needs.<sup>4253</sup> At the meeting, educational professionals presented policy proposals to the Department of Basic Education.<sup>4254</sup> The meeting intended to develop guidelines to safeguard vulnerable learners as schools reopen.<sup>4255</sup>

On 25 June 2020, at the National Council of Provinces, Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga announced reopening plans for schools.<sup>4256</sup> This plan will implement a triaged system,

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<sup>4247</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Coronavirus Covid 19 readiness for re-opening of schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-coronavirus-covid-19-readiness-re-opening-schools-1-jun-2020-0000>

<sup>4248</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Coronavirus Covid 19 readiness for re-opening of schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-coronavirus-covid-19-readiness-re-opening-schools-1-jun-2020-0000>

<sup>4249</sup> Justice calls on applicants for education assistance to TRC-identified victims of apartheid, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (Pretoria) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/justice-calls-applicants-education-assistance-trc-identified-victims-apartheid-17-jun-2020>

<sup>4250</sup> Justice calls on applicants for education assistance to TRC-identified victims of apartheid, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (Pretoria) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/justice-calls-applicants-education-assistance-trc-identified-victims-apartheid-17-jun-2020>

<sup>4251</sup> Minister Senzo Mchunu announces partnerships between National School of Government and Universities, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-senzo-mchunu-announces-partnerships-between-national-school-government-and>

<sup>4252</sup> Minister Senzo Mchunu announces partnerships between National School of Government and Universities, Department of Public Service and Administration (Pretoria) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-senzo-mchunu-announces-partnerships-between-national-school-government-and>

<sup>4253</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga meets with representatives of special needs education ahead of re-opening during Coronavirus COVID-19 Level 3, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-meets-representatives-special-needs-education-ahead-re-opening>

<sup>4254</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga meets with representatives of special needs education ahead of re-opening during Coronavirus COVID-19 Level 3, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-meets-representatives-special-needs-education-ahead-re-opening>

<sup>4255</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga meets with representatives of special needs education ahead of re-opening during Coronavirus COVID-19 Level 3, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020.

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-meets-representatives-special-needs-education-ahead-re-opening>

<sup>4256</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: NCOP Virtual Conference on measures taken to stop spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-ncop-virtual-conference-measures-taken-stop-spread-coronavirus>

including a phased return, a Master Curriculum Recovery plan and a Psychosocial Support Plan.<sup>4257</sup> These plans aim “to offer an additional layer of protection to the majority of learners who have no other avenue to pursue schooling and access to additional services available in our schools.”<sup>4258</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the Department of Basic Education transitioned to the second stage of its reopening plan. This stage expands plans to include students enrolled in Grade 6, Grade 11 and Grade R.<sup>4259</sup> These measures aim to curb the impact of the pandemic on learning for students.<sup>4260</sup>

On 24 July 2020, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Blade Nzimande established the Ministerial Task Team to perform an independent review on the University of South Africa. This independent review will inspect the quality of education and services available at the university due to concerns following its merger.<sup>4261</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the Department of Higher Education and Training instituted a mental health program and a 24/7 helpline to serve the mental health needs of students and staff in post-secondary education.<sup>4262</sup> This initiative intends to support communities which “have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>4263</sup>

On 27 July 2020, Minister Nzimande ordered the Department of Higher Education and Training to revoke attendance requirements for technical and vocational education and training colleges during the lockdown, as attendance may be contingent on financial assistance.<sup>4264</sup>

On 31 July 2020, Minister Nzimande issued a policy framework designed “to address gender-based violence in the post school education and training system.”<sup>4265</sup> This framework will equip the Department of Higher Education and Training with technology to monitor its progress in the

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<sup>4257</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: NCOP Virtual Conference on measures taken to stop spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-ncop-virtual-conference-measures-taken-stop-spread-coronavirus>

<sup>4258</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: NCOP Virtual Conference on measures taken to stop spread of Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in schools, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-ncop-virtual-conference-measures-taken-stop-spread-coronavirus>

<sup>4259</sup> Basic Education on amendments to grades returning to school, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-amendments-grade-returning-school%2%A0-2-jul-2020-0000>

<sup>4260</sup> Basic Education on amendments to grades returning to school, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/basic-education-amendments-grade-returning-school%2%A0-2-jul-2020-0000>

<sup>4261</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande appoints ministerial task team to review Unisa, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 24 July 2020. Access Date: 31 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-appoints-ministerial-task-team-review-unisa-24-jul-2020-0000>

<sup>4262</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande on Higher Health on the implementation of a mental health initiative and the launch of a 24/7 helpline, Department of Higher Education and Training (Pretoria) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-higher-health-implementation-mental-health-initiative-and-launch>

<sup>4263</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande on Higher Health on the implementation of a mental health initiative and the launch of a 24/7 helpline, Department of Higher Education and Training (Pretoria) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-higher-health-implementation-mental-health-initiative-and-launch>

<sup>4264</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande on temporary waiving of 80% attendance policy requirement for payment of allowances to TVET college students, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-temporary-waiving-80-attendance-policy-requirement-payment>

<sup>4265</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande releases Policy Framework to address gender-based violence in Post-School Education and Training System, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-releases-policy-framework-address-gender-based-violence-post-school>

education system.<sup>4266</sup> This is part of a wider mission “to build an inclusive and diversified post-school education and training (PSET) system where all citizens have equal access to quality post-school education and training opportunities, and in a safe environment.”<sup>4267</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Minister Motshekga launched a free television program to support students preparing for matriculation.<sup>4268</sup> The program will provide instruction in ten subjects and distribute supplementary material.<sup>4269</sup> This program will also be backed by a communications campaign to ensure that learning material is accessible to all students, parents and teachers.<sup>4270</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme released a statement on the distribution of laptops to financially disadvantaged students.<sup>4271</sup> The statement provided that the NSFAS rejected all 150 bids “for the supply and delivery of the digital learning devices.”<sup>4272</sup> As such, it will open a new bidding period to choose a service provider to distribute educational devices.<sup>4273</sup>

On 2 September 2020, the Department of Basic Education briefed the Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture on the status of reopening schools.<sup>4274</sup> The department reported that all grades have returned to in-person learning and will receive educational support from the department’s “catch-up program” to compensate for “lost teaching and learning time.”<sup>4275</sup> The department also informed the committee that not all students have returned to school

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<sup>4266</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande releases Policy Framework to address gender-based violence in Post-School Education and Training System, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-releases-policy-framework-address-gender-based-violence-post-school>

<sup>4267</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande releases Policy Framework to address gender-based violence in Post-School Education and Training System, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-releases-policy-framework-address-gender-based-violence-post-school>

<sup>4268</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga launches WOZA Matrics: Free to air television programme to support the 2020 matric learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launches-woza-matrics-free-air-television-programme-support-2020>

<sup>4269</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga launches WOZA Matrics: Free to air television programme to support the 2020 matric learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launches-woza-matrics-free-air-television-programme-support-2020>

<sup>4270</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga launches WOZA Matrics: Free to air television programme to support the 2020 matric learners, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 30 August 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launches-woza-matrics-free-air-television-programme-support-2020>

<sup>4271</sup> NSFAS on the distribution of laptops to funded students, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-distribution-laptops-funded-students-26-aug-2020-0000>

<sup>4272</sup> NSFAS on the distribution of laptops to funded students, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-distribution-laptops-funded-students-26-aug-2020-0000>

<sup>4273</sup> NSFAS on the distribution of laptops to funded students, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-distribution-laptops-funded-students-26-aug-2020-0000>

<sup>4274</sup> Parliament on post-lockdown disruption of schooling, Parliament of South Africa (Cape Town) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-post-lockdown-disruption-schooling-2-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4275</sup> Parliament on post-lockdown disruption of schooling, Parliament of South Africa (Cape Town) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-post-lockdown-disruption-schooling-2-sep-2020-0000>

as parents “fear that their kids can get infected, despite scientific evidence that very few school children die from the Covid-19 pandemic.”<sup>4276</sup> This brief intends to help the Select Committee on Education and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture develop measures to minimize disruptions in learning.<sup>4277</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4278</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the National Student Financial Aid Scheme provided an update on the 2021 application cycle.<sup>4279</sup> It announced that over 188,733 “Grade 9 to 12 learners and out of school youth who wish to further their studies at any public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college or Universities across the country” have applied for financial aid.<sup>4280</sup> In addition, the scheme partnered with the National Youth Development Agency and the Department of Basic Education in preparation for an influx of applications.<sup>4281</sup>

On 8 September 2020, Minister Motshekga announced the launch of the E<sup>3</sup> WhatsApp TeacherConnect Platform.<sup>4282</sup> The online application will allow teaching professionals to better connect through helpdesk settings and mentorship programs.<sup>4283</sup> It will also have a built in “Healthcheck” to monitor health risks in the education sector.<sup>4284</sup> This platform “has been created to empower and support teachers.”<sup>4285</sup>

On 15 September 2020, Minister Nzimande spoke at the fourth annual national Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education Lekgotla.<sup>4286</sup> In his address, Minister Nzimande asserted that

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<sup>4276</sup> Parliament on post-lockdown disruption of schooling, Parliament of South Africa (Cape Town) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-post-lockdown-disruption-schooling-2-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4277</sup> Parliament on post-lockdown disruption of schooling, Parliament of South Africa (Cape Town) 2 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/parliament-post-lockdown-disruption-schooling-2-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4278</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4279</sup> NSFAS updates on 2021 applications, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-updates-2021-applications-7-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4280</sup> NSFAS updates on 2021 applications, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-updates-2021-applications-7-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4281</sup> NSFAS updates on 2021 applications, National Student Financial Aid Scheme (Cape Town) 7 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nsfas-updates-2021-applications-7-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4282</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of E<sup>3</sup> WhatsApp TeacherConnect Platform, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-e%C2%B3-whatsapp-teacherconnect-platform-8-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4283</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of E<sup>3</sup> WhatsApp TeacherConnect Platform, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-e%C2%B3-whatsapp-teacherconnect-platform-8-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4284</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of E<sup>3</sup> WhatsApp TeacherConnect Platform, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-e%C2%B3-whatsapp-teacherconnect-platform-8-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4285</sup> Minister Angie Motshekga: Launch of E<sup>3</sup> WhatsApp TeacherConnect Platform, Department of Basic Education (Pretoria) 8 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-angie-motshekga-launch-e%C2%B3-whatsapp-teacherconnect-platform-8-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>4286</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: National Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education Lekgotla, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-national-entrepreneurship-development-higher-education-lekgotla-15>



youth will lead the recovery from COVID-19, calling on the Ministry to support student entrepreneurs.<sup>4287</sup> Subsequently, he announced “the first collaborative one-week virtual Student Entrepreneurship Week event” to foster entrepreneurship among youth.<sup>4288</sup> This is part of Minister Nzimande’s wider effort to integrate universities, technical colleges, Sector Education and Training Authorities and the National System of Innovation.<sup>4289</sup>

South Africa fully complied with its commitment to invest in all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. South Africa instituted educational programs to provide quality basic education and enhance vocational education, thus fostering education for sustainable development and inclusive growth. Moreover, South Africa supported disadvantaged students by improving accessibility to education and establishing inclusive education policies. Lastly, South Africa instituted measures to continue training for vocational and skill-based programs in support of education for innovation.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Isabelle Buchanan and Yana Sadeghi*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 1 September 2019, in collaboration with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) opened a new girl’s school in Amman, Jordan. This school will serve as a preparatory institution for Palestinian refugee children. TIKA contributed to the renovation of the school, created new classes, and prepared new educational resources for the 2019-2020 school year.<sup>4290</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the government announced its digital educational development program in Ankara, Turkey. The program aims to advance the skills of teachers, innovation, and quality of education for children in Turkey. Minister of National Education Ziya Selçuk stated that the program endeavors to reach a total of one million teachers.<sup>4291</sup>

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<sup>4287</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: National Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education Lekgotla, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-national-entrepreneurship-development-higher-education-lekgotla-15>

<sup>4288</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: National Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education Lekgotla, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-national-entrepreneurship-development-higher-education-lekgotla-15>

<sup>4289</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande: National Entrepreneurship Development in Higher Education Lekgotla, Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology (Pretoria) 15 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-national-entrepreneurship-development-higher-education-lekgotla-15>

<sup>4290</sup> Government of Turkey supports UNRWA education programme in Jordan through TIKA, UNRWA (Amman) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/government-turkey-supports-unrwa-education-programme-jordan-through-tika#mm-2>

<sup>4291</sup> Turkish education minister unveils digital transformation program, Hurriyet Daily News (Ankara) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkish-education-minister-unveils-digital-transformation-program-149481>

On 27 February 2020, the government announced its plan to open a technical and vocational training school in Kigali, Rwanda. Turkish Ambassador to Rwanda Burcu Çevik stated that the goal of this new institute is to provide training for Rwanda's youth and support their self-sufficiency and economic independence.<sup>4292</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the government announced the completion of a school renovation project in Asuncion, Paraguay. The project transformed the school by constructing a two-story building and renewing the school's facilities and outdoor and indoor spaces. The school was one of TİKA's first projects, and TİKA pledged its continued support for this school.<sup>4293</sup>

On 29 June 2020, the government invested in schooling and distance education with the assistance of the World Bank.<sup>4294</sup> The project includes an investment of EUR143.8 million into an education project led by the government.<sup>4295</sup> The aim of this program is to enhance the function of the education system and provide equal access to education for students during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.<sup>4296</sup> This project aims to fulfill the educational needs of vulnerable children such as refugees, low-income children, disabled children, and non-Turkish speakers.<sup>4297</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4298</sup>

Turkey fully complied with this commitment by equipping teachers with skills training, investing in vocational and skill-based education for innovation, and emphasizing the importance of educational accessibility for hard-to-reach communities and refugees.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nour Elassinty*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20's commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>4292</sup> Turkey plans to open technical training college in Rwanda, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/turkey-plans-to-open-technical-training-college-in-rwanda/1746325>

<sup>4293</sup> Turkey's TİKA renovates school in Paraguay's Asuncion, Daily Sabah (Ankara) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/education/turkeys-tika-renovates-school-in-paraguays-asuncion>

<sup>4294</sup> Turkey Invests in Safer Schooling and Distance Education with the World Bank Support, Modern Diplomacy (Ankara) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/06/29/turkey-invests-in-safer-schooling-and-distance-education-with-the-world-bank-support/>

<sup>4295</sup> Turkey Invests in Safer Schooling and Distance Education with the World Bank Support, Modern Diplomacy (Ankara) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/06/29/turkey-invests-in-safer-schooling-and-distance-education-with-the-world-bank-support/>

<sup>4296</sup> Turkey Invests in Safer Schooling and Distance Education with the World Bank Support, Modern Diplomacy (Ankara) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/06/29/turkey-invests-in-safer-schooling-and-distance-education-with-the-world-bank-support/>

<sup>4297</sup> Turkey Invests in Safer Schooling and Distance Education with the World Bank Support, Modern Diplomacy (Ankara) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/06/29/turkey-invests-in-safer-schooling-and-distance-education-with-the-world-bank-support/>

<sup>4298</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit in France, the UK and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4299</sup>

On 30 August 2019, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced GBP14 billion in funding for education by 2023.<sup>4300</sup> By 2021, GBP780 million will be allocated to education for children with special needs and disabilities.<sup>4301</sup>

On 9 January 2020, Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced that further education colleges and other post-16 education and training providers can “sign up to teach the next wave of the government’s new T Levels.”<sup>4302</sup> By 2022, the Ministry of Education will introduce an additional 15 T Levels, which will include courses in agriculture, animal care, legal course and accounting.<sup>4303</sup>

On 11 January 2020, Prime Minister Johnson and Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar resumed negotiations of the Stormont Deal.<sup>4304</sup> One condition included in the deal is a review of education in Northern Ireland.<sup>4305</sup> Part of this review will focus on “tackling problems faced by pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.”<sup>4306</sup> The Education Department of Northern Ireland will also receive GBP10 million in educational funding for children with special needs and disabilities.<sup>4307</sup>

On 20 January 2020, Secretary Williamson spoke at the Education World Forum.<sup>4308</sup> Williamson took this opportunity “to announce a one-year extension to this International School Exchange programme, and its expansion to include primary school children in Years five and six.”<sup>4309</sup> This programme allows “children from disadvantaged backgrounds” to study in other countries.<sup>4310</sup>

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<sup>4299</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4300</sup> Prime Minister Boost Schools with GBP14 Billion Package, Gov.uk (London) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-boosts-schools-with-14-billion-package#history>

<sup>4301</sup> Prime Minister Boost Schools with GBP14 Billion Package, Gov.uk (London) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-boosts-schools-with-14-billion-package#history>

<sup>4302</sup> Third Wave of Further Education Providers Invited to Teach Pioneering New T Levels from 2022, Gov.uk (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/third-wave-of-further-education-providers-invited-to-teach-pioneering-new-t-levels-from-2022>

<sup>4303</sup> Third Wave of Further Education Providers Invited to Teach Pioneering New T Levels from 2022, Gov.uk (London) 9 January 2020. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/third-wave-of-further-education-providers-invited-to-teach-pioneering-new-t-levels-from-2022>

<sup>4304</sup> Stormont Deal: BBC News NI Experts Examine the Detail, BBC News NI (Belfast) 10 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-51063140>

<sup>4305</sup> Stormont Deal: What’s Next, BBC News NI (Belfast) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-51089350>

<sup>4306</sup> Stormont Deal: What’s Next, BBC News NI (Belfast) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-northern-ireland-51089350>

<sup>4307</sup> Stormont Money Boost for Special Needs Education, BBC News NI (Belfast) 27 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-51274047>

<sup>4308</sup> Education Secretary Sets Ambition for International Collaboration, Gavin Williamson (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-ambition-for-international-collaboration>

<sup>4309</sup> Education Secretary Sets Ambition for International Collaboration, Gavin Williamson (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-ambition-for-international-collaboration>

<sup>4310</sup> Education Secretary Sets Ambition for International Collaboration, Gavin Williamson (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-ambition-for-international-collaboration>

On 30 January 2020, “new legislation laid in Parliament” guarantees that every school will receive a minimum of GBP5,000 per student and every primary school will receive a minimum of GBP3,750 per student.<sup>4311</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak announced the UK’s budget for 2020.<sup>4312</sup> The budget pledged GBP7,000,000 “to open 11 specialist maths schools for 16- to 19-year-olds.”<sup>4313</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak announced that the UK’s 2020 budget will create a GBP2.5bn “National Skills Fund for England to improve the technical skills of adults across the country.”<sup>4314</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Chancellor Sunak pledged that in the UK’s 2020 budget, sufficient funds will be allocated to an apprenticeship program for students in small to medium-sized businesses.<sup>4315</sup>

On 31 March 2020, the government implemented a voucher program to provide free school meals to students studying remotely.<sup>4316</sup> Schools will provide eligible students with a weekly stipend of GBP15 to purchase lunch at local supermarkets.<sup>4317</sup> This plan aims to help “children who usually benefit from free school meals still have access to healthy and nutritious meals while they are not attending school.”<sup>4318</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the Department of Education closed a deal with Google and Microsoft to provide technology to students studying remotely.<sup>4319</sup> As part of the deal, the government pledged GBP100

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<sup>4311</sup> PM Guarantees Minimum Funding Levels for all Schools, Gov.uk (London) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-guarantees-minimum-funding-levels-for-all-schools>

<sup>4312</sup> Chancellor pledges specialist maths school in every English region, The Guardian (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/chancellor-pledges-specialist-maths-school-in-every-english-region>

<sup>4313</sup> Chancellor pledges specialist maths school in every English region, The Guardian (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/chancellor-pledges-specialist-maths-school-in-every-english-region>

<sup>4314</sup> Chancellor pledges specialist maths school in every English region, The Guardian (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/chancellor-pledges-specialist-maths-school-in-every-english-region>

<sup>4315</sup> Chancellor pledges specialist maths school in every English region, The Guardian (London) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/chancellor-pledges-specialist-maths-school-in-every-english-region>

<sup>4316</sup> Voucher scheme launches for schools providing free school meals, Department for Education (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

<sup>4317</sup> Voucher scheme launches for schools providing free school meals, Department for Education (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

<sup>4318</sup> Voucher scheme launches for schools providing free school meals, Department for Education (London) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/voucher-scheme-launches-for-schools-providing-free-school-meals>

<sup>4319</sup> Schools to benefit from education partnership with tech giants, Department for Education (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-to-benefit-from-education-partnership-with-tech-giants>

million to cover the costs of devices and internet access.<sup>4320</sup> This plan aims to increase access to education “for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people across England.”<sup>4321</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the government invested GBP12 million in projects aimed at helping children who are at risk of experiencing neglect, violence or exploitation while learning remotely.<sup>4322</sup>

On 28 April 2020, Secretary Williamson launched the Skills Toolkit, a learning platform available on the government’s website.<sup>4323</sup> This platform offers free courses to improve digital literacy and numeracy skills while working and studying remotely.<sup>4324</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the Education and Skills Funding Agency expanded the 16 to 19 Bursary to provide financial support for disadvantaged students during the pandemic.<sup>4325</sup> Financial aid will be determined by students’ home postal codes and projected costs.<sup>4326</sup> The goal of the plan is to increase access to education for students experiencing economic hardship.<sup>4327</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the government committed GBP37.3 million to “help low-income families with seriously ill or disabled children.”<sup>4328</sup> This funding will cover the costs of learning equipment to support the transition to remote learning.<sup>4329</sup>

On 21 May 2020, Secretary Williamson announced at the Prime Minister’s Virtual Summit that GBP10 million will be allotted to improve “the educational outcomes of vulnerable learners.”<sup>4330</sup> Of

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<sup>4320</sup> Schools to benefit from education partnership with tech giants, Department for Education (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-to-benefit-from-education-partnership-with-tech-giants>

<sup>4321</sup> Schools to benefit from education partnership with tech giants, Department for Education (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-to-benefit-from-education-partnership-with-tech-giants>

<sup>4322</sup> Multi-million support for vulnerable children during COVID-19, Department for Education (London) 24 April 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-support-for-vulnerable-children-during-covid-19>

<sup>4323</sup> New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills, Department for Education (London) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>

<sup>4324</sup> New free online learning platform to boost workplace skills, Department for Education (London) 28 April 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-free-online-learning-platform-to-boost-workplace-skills>

<sup>4325</sup> 16 to 19 bursary fund guide 2020 to 2021 academic year, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

<sup>4326</sup> 16 to 19 bursary fund guide 2020 to 2021 academic year, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

<sup>4327</sup> 16 to 19 bursary fund guide 2020 to 2021 academic year, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 1 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-guide-2020-to-2021-academic-year>

<sup>4328</sup> £37 million to support children with complex needs, Department for Education (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/37-million-to-support-children-with-complex-needs>

<sup>4329</sup> £37 million to support children with complex needs, Department for Education (London) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/37-million-to-support-children-with-complex-needs>

<sup>4330</sup> Social workers to work with teachers in schools, Department for Education (London) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-workers-to-work-with-teachers-in-schools>

these funds, GBP6.5 million will be allocated to a project that aims to integrate social workers into the education system.<sup>4331</sup>

On 24 May 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced that schools, colleges and nurseries met the targets set by the Department of Education and will be proceeding with reopening plans come June 2020.<sup>4332</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford committed GBP7 million to helping vulnerable students transition from alternative provision to post-16 education.<sup>4333</sup> These funds intend to “help schools and colleges pay for tailored support such as transition coaches and mentors to provide one-to-one support for young people.”<sup>4334</sup>

On 5 June 2020, Universities Minister Michelle Donelan appointed Sir Steve Smith as an International Education Champion “to support international students and the higher education sector during COVID-19.”<sup>4335</sup> Smith will work with the education sector to “target priority regions worldwide to build networks and promote the UK as the international education partner of choice.”<sup>4336</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Universities Minister Michelle Donelan announced that the Office for Students developed SmartSpace, a new digital platform to provide mental health support for students.<sup>4337</sup> The Office for Students will provide up to GBP3 million in funds to support the project.<sup>4338</sup>

On 19 June 2020, the government supplied GBP1 billion for a COVID-19 catch-up plan to “accelerate ... academic progress.” According to the plan, GBP650 million will be distributed among state primary and secondary schools and GBP350 million will be allocated towards a National Tutoring Programme for the upcoming academic year.<sup>4339</sup> This investment aims to support young

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<sup>4331</sup> Social workers to work with teachers in schools, Department for Education (London) 22 May 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/social-workers-to-work-with-teachers-in-schools>

<sup>4332</sup> PM confirms schools, colleges and nurseries on track to begin phased reopening, Department for Education (London) 24 May 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-confirms-schools-colleges-and-nurseries-on-track-to-begin-phased-reopening>

<sup>4333</sup> £7 million for vulnerable pupils leaving Alternative Provision, Department for Education (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-million-for-vulnerable-pupils-leaving-alternative-provision>

<sup>4334</sup> £7 million for vulnerable pupils leaving Alternative Provision, Department for Education (London) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-million-for-vulnerable-pupils-leaving-alternative-provision>

<sup>4335</sup> Universities Minister sets out support for international students, Department for Education (London) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-minister-sets-out-support-for-international-students>

<sup>4336</sup> Universities Minister sets out support for international students, Department for Education (London) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universities-minister-sets-out-support-for-international-students>

<sup>4337</sup> Universities Minister announces mental health support for students, Department for Education (London) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-announces-mental-health-support-for-students>

<sup>4338</sup> Universities Minister announces mental health support for students, Department for Education (London) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-announces-mental-health-support-for-students>

<sup>4339</sup> Billion pound Covid catch-up plan to tackle impact of lost teaching time, Department for Education (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

people “regardless of their income or background,” as the “the gap between them and their more affluent peers [widen].”<sup>4340</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the Department of Education established an induction program due to a surge in applications for teaching positions following the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>4341</sup> This program will provide new teachers with training and “participating schools will receive GBP2200 for every teacher on the second year of the induction.”<sup>4342</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the government established the COVID Summer Food Fund to help low-income students receive free meals over the summer holiday period.<sup>4343</sup> Through this program, schools will receive GBP90 per eligible student.<sup>4344</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Prime Minister Johnson announced a ten-year rebuilding program “to level up opportunity for all.”<sup>4345</sup> Prime Minister Johnson pledged over GBP1 billion to finance 50 projects for new schools and an additional GBP760 million for repairs to schools and colleges.<sup>4346</sup> This plan will be put into effect starting in the 2020-2021 academic year.<sup>4347</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the Department of Education announced changes to the Early Years Foundation Stages to support early childhood development.<sup>4348</sup> These changes will add a “focus on language and vocabulary development,” in addition to instruction on numeracy skills.<sup>4349</sup> Furthermore, the government will provide GBP1 million in grants to help “disadvantaged and vulnerable pre-school aged children.”<sup>4350</sup>

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<sup>4340</sup> Billion pound Covid catch-up plan to tackle impact of lost teaching time, Department for Education (London) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/billion-pound-covid-catch-up-plan-to-tackle-impact-of-lost-teaching-time>

<sup>4341</sup> Extra support for new teachers amid surge in applications, Department of Education (London) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-support-for-new-teachers-amid-surge-in-applications>

<sup>4342</sup> Extra support for new teachers amid surge in applications, Department of Education (London) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-support-for-new-teachers-amid-surge-in-applications>

<sup>4343</sup> COVID Summer Food Fund, Department for Education (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>

<sup>4344</sup> COVID Summer Food Fund, Department for Education (London) 25 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>

<sup>4345</sup> PM announces transformative school rebuilding programme, Department for Education (London) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-transformative-school-rebuilding-programme>

<sup>4346</sup> PM announces transformative school rebuilding programme, Department for Education (London) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-transformative-school-rebuilding-programme>

<sup>4347</sup> PM announces transformative school rebuilding programme, Department for Education (London) 28 June 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pm-announces-transformative-school-rebuilding-programme>

<sup>4348</sup> Reforms set to boost early language outcomes and cut workload, Department for Education (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-set-to-boost-early-language-outcomes-and-cut-workload>

<sup>4349</sup> Reforms set to boost early language outcomes and cut workload, Department for Education (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-set-to-boost-early-language-outcomes-and-cut-workload>

<sup>4350</sup> Reforms set to boost early language outcomes and cut workload, Department for Education (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reforms-set-to-boost-early-language-outcomes-and-cut-workload>

On 1 July 2020, Minister Donelan spoke at the National Education Opportunities Network Summit, announcing the launch of Uni4Me, an online forum which provides “access to online events, activities and resources from UK higher education organisations.”<sup>4351</sup> This initiative intends to increase social mobility by acting as an intermediary for higher education.<sup>4352</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the British Embassy in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, hosted a scientific educational webinar “on the prevention, preparedness and response to COVID-19 in Turkmenistan.”<sup>4353</sup> This webinar aimed to inform the public in both the United Kingdom and Turkmenistan on the pandemic’s developments.<sup>4354</sup>

On 2 July 2020, the Department of Education established guidelines for the reopening of schools.<sup>4355</sup> The guidelines include “secure measures ... to reduce the risk of transmission” and provide contingency plans in the event of a second wave.<sup>4356</sup>

On 3 July 2020, Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships Gillian Keegan released a support package “to help employers and [further education] providers deliver high-quality industry placements” for a new technical learning program designed by the Department for Education.<sup>4357</sup>

On 5 July 2020, Secretary Williamson announced that GBP320 million will be allocated to a Physical Education and Sport Premium in the following school year.<sup>4358</sup> This plan intends to help children reap the benefits of exercise in terms of improved mental and physical health, academic performance and behaviour.<sup>4359</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the Department of Education and Department for Health and Social Care commissioned the Office for Standards in Education and Care Quality Commission “to visit local areas to help improve their [special educational needs and disabilities] systems following the COVID-19 disruption.”<sup>4360</sup>

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<sup>4351</sup> Universities Minister calls for true social mobility, Department for Education (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-calls-for-true-social-mobility>

<sup>4352</sup> Universities Minister calls for true social mobility, Department for Education (London) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-calls-for-true-social-mobility>

<sup>4353</sup> Preparedness and response to COVID-19: scientific educational webinar in Ashgabat, British Embassy Ashgabat (Ashgabat) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preparedness-and-response-to-covid-19-scientific-educational-webinar-in-ashgabat>

<sup>4354</sup> Preparedness and response to COVID-19: scientific educational webinar in Ashgabat, British Embassy Ashgabat (Ashgabat) 6 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preparedness-and-response-to-covid-19-scientific-educational-webinar-in-ashgabat>

<sup>4355</sup> Schools and colleges to reopen in full in September, Department for Education (London) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-colleges-to-reopen-in-full-in-september>

<sup>4356</sup> Schools and colleges to reopen in full in September, Department for Education (London) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-colleges-to-reopen-in-full-in-september>

<sup>4357</sup> New package of support for T Level industry placements, Department for Education (London) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-package-of-support-for-t-level-industry-placements>

<sup>4358</sup> PE and Sport Premium for schools confirmed, Department for Education (London) 5 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pe-and-sport-premium-for-schools-confirmed>

<sup>4359</sup> PE and Sport Premium for schools confirmed, Department for Education (London) 5 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pe-and-sport-premium-for-schools-confirmed>

<sup>4360</sup> Supporting local areas to prioritise and meet the needs of children and young people with SEND, Department for Education (London) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supporting-local-areas-to-prioritise-and-meet-the-needs-of-children-and-young-people-with-send>



On 14 July 2020, Secretary Williamson released a package of measures designed to revamp higher technical education.<sup>4361</sup> This package intends to compensate for “skills shortages in sectors like construction, manufacturing and digital” by providing students in technical programs with meaningful employment.<sup>4362</sup>

On 19 July 2020, the Department of Education announced that it will open 35 schools for students with special education needs and disabilities, creating an additional 3000 spots for students with complex needs.<sup>4363</sup> This will provide students with access to specialist equipment and support from trained professionals.<sup>4364</sup> This plan intends “to ensure that children with special educational needs and in [alternative provision] are receiving the tailored support they need to fulfil their potential.”<sup>4365</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Department of Education released a funding plan for the following school year. The government will provide GBP4.8 billion in funding for 2021 as part of a three-year GBP14.4 billion funding settlement for schools.<sup>4366</sup> This investment aims to uphold the “Prime Minister’s pledge to level up education funding and give all young people the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of where they grow up or go to school.”<sup>4367</sup>

On 23 July 2020, the Department of Education awarded GBP5.4 million to 20 colleges to increase access to higher education.<sup>4368</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group held its 16th biannual meeting.<sup>4369</sup> Ambassador to Kuwait Michael Davenport announced that this meeting “will be followed by working groups focusing on next steps in bilateral co-operation” on a wide range of issues including education.<sup>4370</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the Education and Skills Funding Agency released its plan to provide 19 to 24 adult education budget-funded traineeships.<sup>4371</sup> This plan will be financed by a GBP111 million investment from the government.<sup>4372</sup> The plan is projected to triple the number of traineeships.<sup>4373</sup>

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<sup>4361</sup> Major overhaul of higher technical education announced, Department for Education (London) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-overhaul-of-higher-technical-education-announced>

<sup>4362</sup> Major overhaul of higher technical education announced, Department for Education (London) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-overhaul-of-higher-technical-education-announced>

<sup>4363</sup> Thousands of places created in new special free schools, Department of Education (London) 19 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-places-created-in-new-special-free-schools--2>

<sup>4364</sup> Thousands of places created in new special free schools, Department of Education (London) 19 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-places-created-in-new-special-free-schools--2>

<sup>4365</sup> Thousands of places created in new special free schools, Department of Education (London) 19 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/thousands-of-places-created-in-new-special-free-schools--2>

<sup>4366</sup> Every pupil in England to see another rise in funding in 2021, Department for Education (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-pupil-in-england-to-see-another-rise-in-funding-in-2021>

<sup>4367</sup> Every pupil in England to see another rise in funding in 2021, Department for Education (London) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/every-pupil-in-england-to-see-another-rise-in-funding-in-2021>

<sup>4368</sup> £5.4 million to help colleges upskill the country, Department for Education (London) 23 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/54-million-to-help-colleges-upskill-the-country>

<sup>4369</sup> 16th meeting of UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sixteenth-meeting-of-uk-kuwait-joint-steering-group>

<sup>4370</sup> 16th meeting of UK-Kuwait Joint Steering Group, Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sixteenth-meeting-of-uk-kuwait-joint-steering-group>

<sup>4371</sup> ESFA procurement opportunity launching soon for providers to access additional funding to deliver 19 to 24 AEB funded traineeships, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/esfa-procurement-opportunity-launching-soon-for-providers-to-access-additional-funding-to-deliver-19-to-24-aeb-funded-traineeships>

On 3 August 2020, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation announced changes to exams and assessments for 2021 due to ongoing public health concerns.<sup>4374</sup> These measures have been put in place to “free up teaching time, reduce pressure on students and allow assessments to be undertaken within current public health restrictions.”<sup>4375</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the Department of Education allocated GBP560 million to 580 construction plans for academies, sixth form colleges and voluntary aided schools.<sup>4376</sup> These projects intend “to repair and upgrade school facilities and create modern, fit-for-purpose spaces that meet schools’ needs.”<sup>4377</sup>

On 11 August 2020, Minister Donelan urged Vice-Chancellors to reserve spaces for students due to an influx of appeals caused by the pandemic.<sup>4378</sup> This decision aims to ensure that students are able to continue their higher education should they choose to do so.<sup>4379</sup>

On 12 August 2020, the Department of Education established the Wellbeing for Education Return Grant.<sup>4380</sup> This grant will provide additional funding to local schools “to support pupils’ and students’ wellbeing and psychosocial recovery as they return to full-time education in autumn 2020.”<sup>4381</sup>

On 12 August 2020, the Department of Education implemented a “triple lock” system to provide security to students receiving grades during the pandemic.<sup>4382</sup> In this model, students will have the

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<sup>4372</sup> ESFA procurement opportunity launching soon for providers to access additional funding to deliver 19 to 24 AEB funded traineeships, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/esfa-procurement-opportunity-launching-soon-for-providers-to-access-additional-funding-to-deliver-19-to-24-aeb-funded-traineeships>

<sup>4373</sup> ESFA procurement opportunity launching soon for providers to access additional funding to deliver 19 to 24 AEB funded traineeships, Education and Skills Funding Agency (London) 29 July 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/esfa-procurement-opportunity-launching-soon-for-providers-to-access-additional-funding-to-deliver-19-to-24-aeb-funded-traineeships>

<sup>4374</sup> Exams and assessments in 2021, Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (London) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021>

<sup>4375</sup> Exams and assessments in 2021, Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (London) 3 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021>

<sup>4376</sup> Hundreds of additional school improvement projects get green light, Department for Education (London) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-additional-school-improvement-projects-get-green-light>

<sup>4377</sup> Hundreds of additional school improvement projects get green light, Department for Education (London) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hundreds-of-additional-school-improvement-projects-get-green-light>

<sup>4378</sup> Government urges universities to hold places, Department for Education (London) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-urges-universities-to-hold-places>

<sup>4379</sup> Government urges universities to hold places, Department for Education (London) 11 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-urges-universities-to-hold-places>

<sup>4380</sup> Wellbeing for education return grant: S31 grant determination letter, Department for Education (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wellbeing-for-education-return-grant-s31-grant-determination-letter>

<sup>4381</sup> Wellbeing for education return grant: S31 grant determination letter, Department for Education (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wellbeing-for-education-return-grant-s31-grant-determination-letter>

<sup>4382</sup> Triple lock for students ahead of A level and GCSE results, Department for Education (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/triple-lock-for-students-ahead-of-a-level-and-gcse-results>

option of accepting their calculated grade, appealing to receive a valid mock result, or sitting autumn exams.<sup>4383</sup> This system intends “to ensure the achievements of young people are recognised.”<sup>4384</sup>

On 15 August 2020, Education Secretary Edward Williamson ordered the Department of Education to assemble a “Gold Command” Taskforce.<sup>4385</sup> The taskforce will convene daily between 15 August 2020 and 7 September 2020 “to ensure appeals are being processed quickly and young people can move on to university, college or the world of work.”<sup>4386</sup>

On 17 August 2020, the government launched its #backtoschoolsafely campaign to prepare for the reopening of schools.<sup>4387</sup> Newspaper, digital, radio and billboard advertisements will demonstrate new techniques and strategies for learning “to engage parents and students in returning to school.”<sup>4388</sup>

On 19 August 2020, the Department of Education pledged GBP200 million in funding to colleges “to repair and refurbish buildings and campuses so they continue to be great places to learn for the local communities they serve.”<sup>4389</sup>

On 20 August 2020, the Higher Education Taskforce agreed to “[lift] the cap on domestic medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and undergraduate teacher training places.”<sup>4390</sup> The aim of this policy is to facilitate post-pandemic recovery, as the aforementioned sectors are “vital to the country’s social needs and economy.”<sup>4391</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the government announced that it will invest GBP8 million in launching a mental health and wellbeing program as schools reopen.<sup>4392</sup> The program intends to provide “the knowledge and access to resources they need to support children and young people, teachers and parents.”<sup>4393</sup>

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<sup>4383</sup> Triple lock for students ahead of A level and GCSE results, Department for Education (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/triple-lock-for-students-ahead-of-a-level-and-gcse-results>

<sup>4384</sup> Triple lock for students ahead of A level and GCSE results, Department for Education (London) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/triple-lock-for-students-ahead-of-a-level-and-gcse-results>

<sup>4385</sup> Reassurance for schools and students on result appeals, Department for Education (London) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reassurance-for-schools-and-students-on-result-appeals>

<sup>4386</sup> Reassurance for schools and students on result appeals, Department for Education (London) 15 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/reassurance-for-schools-and-students-on-result-appeals>

<sup>4387</sup> Government campaign launches to get children ‘back to school safely,’ Department for Education (London) 16 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-campaign-launches-to-get-children-back-to-school-safely>

<sup>4388</sup> Government campaign launches to get children ‘back to school safely,’ Department for Education (London) 16 August 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-campaign-launches-to-get-children-back-to-school-safely>

<sup>4389</sup> Colleges to receive £200 million to transform their buildings, Department for Education (London) 19 August 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/colleges-to-receive-200-million-to-transform-their-buildings>

<sup>4390</sup> Action agreed to support students into preferred universities, Department for Education (London) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/action-agreed-to-support-students-into-preferred-universities>

<sup>4391</sup> Action agreed to support students into preferred universities, Department for Education (London) 20 August 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/action-agreed-to-support-students-into-preferred-universities>

<sup>4392</sup> £8m programme to boost pupil and teacher wellbeing, Department for Education (London) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8m-programme-to-boost-pupil-and-teacher-wellbeing>

On 28 August 2020, the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care provided contingency plans in the event of school lockdowns.<sup>4394</sup> The guide introduces a four-tiered system based on the severity of public health concerns and outlines restrictions in educational settings.<sup>4395</sup> The guide urges schools to exhaust all possible measures before imposing restrictions on learning “to maintain consistent education for children and young people.”<sup>4396</sup>

On 1 September 2020, Apprenticeships and Skills Minister Gillian Keagan urged employers “to apply for generous cash incentives to help them take on new apprentices and get more people into work.”<sup>4397</sup> The program will provide GBP2,000 to newly recruited apprentices under 25 and GBP1,500 for those over the age of 25.<sup>4398</sup> This program intends to help students gain industry experience and stimulate the economy.<sup>4399</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Department of Education published *Development Matters*, a guide to help teachers adjust to reforms made under the Early Years Foundation framework.<sup>4400</sup> The guide hopes for teachers to “benefit from improved curriculum and assessment.”<sup>4401</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4402</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the British High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, dispensed the UK government’s Chevening Scholarship to 38 Malaysian students.<sup>4403</sup> This decision aims to enable students to continue their postgraduate studies in the UK.<sup>4404</sup>

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<sup>4393</sup> £8m programme to boost pupil and teacher wellbeing, Department for Education (London) 25 August 2020. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/8m-programme-to-boost-pupil-and-teacher-wellbeing>

<sup>4394</sup> All possible measures to be taken before schools and colleges close, Department for Education (London) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-possible-measures-to-be-taken-before-schools-and-colleges-close>

<sup>4395</sup> All possible measures to be taken before schools and colleges close, Department for Education (London) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-possible-measures-to-be-taken-before-schools-and-colleges-close>

<sup>4396</sup> All possible measures to be taken before schools and colleges close, Department for Education (London) 28 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/all-possible-measures-to-be-taken-before-schools-and-colleges-close>

<sup>4397</sup> Employers encouraged to sign up for apprentice cash boost, Department for Education (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employers-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-apprentice-cash-boost>

<sup>4398</sup> Employers encouraged to sign up for apprentice cash boost, Department for Education (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employers-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-apprentice-cash-boost>

<sup>4399</sup> Employers encouraged to sign up for apprentice cash boost, Department for Education (London) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/employers-encouraged-to-sign-up-for-apprentice-cash-boost>

<sup>4400</sup> Schools begin teaching reformed Early Years Foundation Stage, Department for Education (London) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-begin-teaching-reformed-early-years-foundation-stage>

<sup>4401</sup> Schools begin teaching reformed Early Years Foundation Stage, Department for Education (London) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-begin-teaching-reformed-early-years-foundation-stage>

<sup>4402</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

On 10 September 2020, Secretary Williamson spoke at the annual Universities United Kingdom Conference.<sup>4405</sup> At the event, Williamson set out goals to foster economic growth by diversifying higher education.<sup>4406</sup> This plan intends to further expand education for international students and establish a restructuring regime to financially support universities.<sup>4407</sup>

On 10 September 2020, the Department of Education amended reopening plans for higher education.<sup>4408</sup> These measures were designed to prioritize in-person learning and minimize the effects of the pandemic on mental health.<sup>4409</sup>

On 10 September 2020, the Department for Education and Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy published a policy paper on the impact of COVID-19 on higher education.<sup>4410</sup> The paper outlines policy measures to streamline research and innovation.<sup>4411</sup> This paper aims “to reduce the bureaucratic burden across higher education and to free up ... time to prioritise frontline teaching and research.”<sup>4412</sup>

On 11 September 2020, the Office for Standards in Education published research on “the views of governors and trustees in the months during lockdown when schools were closed to most pupils.”<sup>4413</sup> The report assesses the response of officials in the education sector and offers suggestions on how to

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<sup>4403</sup> UK's Chevening Scholarship awarded to 38 Malaysians, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur (Kuala Lumpur) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-chevening-scholarship-awarded-to-38-malaysians>

<sup>4404</sup> UK's Chevening Scholarship awarded to 38 Malaysians, British High Commission Kuala Lumpur (Kuala Lumpur) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-chevening-scholarship-awarded-to-38-malaysians>

<sup>4405</sup> Education Secretary sets out aims for higher education, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-aims-for-higher-education>

<sup>4406</sup> Education Secretary sets out aims for higher education, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-aims-for-higher-education>

<sup>4407</sup> Education Secretary sets out aims for higher education, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-aims-for-higher-education>

<sup>4408</sup> Updated guidance for universities ahead of reopening, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-guidance-for-universities-ahead-of-reopening>

<sup>4409</sup> Updated guidance for universities ahead of reopening, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/updated-guidance-for-universities-ahead-of-reopening>

<sup>4410</sup> Reducing bureaucratic burden in research, innovation and higher education, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-bureaucratic-burdens-higher-education/reducing-bureaucratic-burdens-on-research-innovation-and-higher-education#reductions-in-providers-internal-bureaucracy>

<sup>4411</sup> Reducing bureaucratic burden in research, innovation and higher education, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reducing-bureaucratic-burdens-higher-education/reducing-bureaucratic-burdens-on-research-innovation-and-higher-education#reductions-in-providers-internal-bureaucracy>

<sup>4412</sup> Universities Minister addresses sector ahead of academic year, Department for Education (London) 10 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/universities-minister-addresses-sector-ahead-of-academic-year>

<sup>4413</sup> School governors and trustees say they are prepared for COVID impact, Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-governors-and-trustees-say-they-are-prepared-for-covid-impact>

cope with the longer-term effects of the pandemic on learning.<sup>4414</sup> The publication seeks to ensure that governing boards receive the support they need in recovering the education sector from the pandemic.<sup>4415</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the Office for Standards in Education published research on subcontracted learning in further education and the skills sector.<sup>4416</sup> Its findings reveal that “directly-funded providers do not always exert enough influence to manage the subcontracted provision well,” as they may lack industry experience.<sup>4417</sup> In response, the office will implement new measures to make subcontracted learning more transparent.<sup>4418</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the Department for Education launched a digital platform to encourage an active lifestyle among students.<sup>4419</sup> This platform will provide teachers and students with videos for “creative and entertaining content ... in a COVID-secure environment.”<sup>4420</sup> The program also provides accessible activities for students with educational needs and disabilities.<sup>4421</sup>

The UK fully complied with all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. It enhanced vocational and skill-based training to support education for innovation. In addition, the UK improved learning accessibility for vulnerable and disadvantaged learners, thus fostering education for sustainable development and inclusive growth. Lastly, the UK reformed its education system to sustain the challenges caused by the COVID-19 health crisis, thereby building a resilient future for education.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Isabelle Buchanan and Yana Sadeghi*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

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<sup>4414</sup> Governing in unprecedented times, Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/governing-in-unprecedented-times>

<sup>4415</sup> School governors and trustees say they are prepared for COVID impact, Office for Standards in Education, Children’s Services and Skills (London) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-governors-and-trustees-say-they-are-prepared-for-covid-impact>

<sup>4416</sup> Ofsted seeks to make oversight of subcontractors more comprehensive and transparent, Department for Education (London) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-seeks-to-make-oversight-of-subcontractors-more-comprehensive-and-transparent>

<sup>4417</sup> Ofsted seeks to make oversight of subcontractors more comprehensive and transparent, Department for Education (London) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-seeks-to-make-oversight-of-subcontractors-more-comprehensive-and-transparent>

<sup>4418</sup> Ofsted seeks to make oversight of subcontractors more comprehensive and transparent, Department for Education (London) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-seeks-to-make-oversight-of-subcontractors-more-comprehensive-and-transparent>

<sup>4419</sup> Boosting children’s physical activity in school, Department for Education (London) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosting-childrens-physical-activity-in-school>

<sup>4420</sup> Boosting children’s physical activity in school, Department for Education (London) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosting-childrens-physical-activity-in-school>

<sup>4421</sup> Boosting children’s physical activity in school, Department for Education (London) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/boosting-childrens-physical-activity-in-school>

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit in France, the US and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4422</sup>

On 8 November 2019, the Department of Education pledged USD540 million “to support science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education, including computer science.”<sup>4423</sup>

On 4 February 2020, in his State of the Union Address, President Donald Trump asked Congress to support his plan “to offer vocational and technical education in every single high school in America.”<sup>4424</sup>

On 4 February 2020, President Trump called on Congress to pass the Education Freedom Scholarships and Opportunities Act, which seeks to provide children more educational and schooling options.<sup>4425</sup> This Act will give one million children more freedom in selecting their schooling opportunities and further seek to improve scholarship programs.<sup>4426</sup>

On 21 February 2020, the United States Agency for International Development launched an Early Grade Reading Program with Ghana’s Ministry of Education to advance reading skills for school children.<sup>4427</sup>

On 20 May 2020, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo stated that through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Inter-American Foundation (IAF), the government will provide more than USD200 million in assistance to Venezuela.<sup>4428</sup> Funds allocated specifically to humanitarian assistance will also assist in developing education services in Venezuela.<sup>4429</sup>

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<sup>4422</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4423</sup> U.S. Department of Education Advances Trump Administration’s STEM Investment Priorities, U.S. Department of Education (Washington) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-advances-trump-administrations-stem-investment-priorities>

<sup>4424</sup> Full Transcript: Trump’s 2020 State of the Union Address, The New York Times (New York) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/05/us/politics/state-of-union-transcript.html>

<sup>4425</sup> Remarks by President Trump in State of the Union Address, The White House (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address-3/>

<sup>4426</sup> President Trump is fighting for every family’s freedom to choose the best possible education for their children, The White House (Washington) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-trump-is-fighting-for-every-familys-freedom-to-choose-the-best-possible-education-for-their-children/>

<sup>4427</sup> United States of America and Ghana Partner to Improve Early Education Reading Skills, CNBC Africa (Johannesburg) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/africa/apo/2020/02/24/united-states-of-america-and-ghana-partner-to-improve-early-education-reading-skills/>

<sup>4428</sup> United States Provides Additional Assistance for the Crisis in Venezuela and the Region, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-provides-additional-assistance-for-the-crisis-in-venezuela-and-the-region/>

<sup>4429</sup> United States Provides Additional Assistance for the Crisis in Venezuela and the Region, U.S. Department of State (Washington) 20 May 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-provides-additional-assistance-for-the-crisis-in-venezuela-and-the-region/>

On 9 July 2020, USAID and the Ministry of International Cooperation signed six bilateral agreements with Egypt, totalling USD90 million.<sup>4430</sup> The agreements will support programming in the areas of higher education, basic education, and cooperation in science and technology.<sup>4431</sup>

On 5 August 2020, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy announced that it will launch “a national education partnership to expand access to K-12 quantum information science education ... [which is] designed ... to help introduce students to quantum information themes.”<sup>4432</sup>

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4433</sup>

On 17 September 2020, at the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Acting Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of State Carol O’Connell announced that the US will contribute USD5 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW).<sup>4434</sup>

The US fully complied with this commitment by investing in all three pillars of G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Specifically, it pledged to provide resources to enhance the educational systems of developing countries such as Venezuela and Egypt. The US further contributed to ECW and pledged to expand quantum information education to K-12 students, reaffirming its commitment to early childhood education. The US also committed to tackling gender-based and other forms of inequality through education, as well as providing technical and vocational training and STEM education.

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

*Analyst: Loyal Hallal*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to reaffirm the G20’s commitment to investing in human capital, as emphasized in the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development.

On 26 August 2019, at the G7 Biarritz Summit, the EU and its G7 counterparts pledged to tackle “inequality in developing countries through gender-responsive education and quality technical and vocational education and training.”<sup>4435</sup>

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<sup>4430</sup> United States Commits \$90 million in Development Assistance to Egypt, U.S. Embassy in Egypt (Cairo) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://eg.usembassy.gov/united-states-commits-90-million-in-development-assistance-to-egypt/>

<sup>4431</sup> United States Commits \$90 million in Development Assistance to Egypt, U.S. Embassy in Egypt (Cairo) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 23 July 2020. <https://eg.usembassy.gov/united-states-commits-90-million-in-development-assistance-to-egypt/>

<sup>4432</sup> White House unveils new partnership to boost quantum science education, Financial Post (Washington D.C.) 5 August 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <https://financialpost.com/pmnbusiness/pmnbusiness/white-house-unveils-new-partnership-to-boost-quantum-science-education>

<sup>4433</sup> G20 Education Ministers’ Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4434</sup> Global Leaders Focus on Education in Emergencies & Protracted Crises at ECW’S Global High-Level #UNGA75 Event: ‘The Future of Education Is Here for Those Left Furthest Behind,’ Education Cannot Wait (New York) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.educationcannotwait.org/global-leaders-focus-on-education-in-emergencies-protracted-crises-at-ecws-global-high-level-unga75-event-the-future-of-education-is-here-for-those-left-furthest-behind/>



On 26 September 2019, the EU held an education summit in Brussels, Belgium. The summit gathered ministers, teachers, and experts to discuss the future of education in the EU. This year's summit focused on the need for increased recruitment and support for teachers. The summit also included workshops on innovation, classroom environments, and the future of education.<sup>4436</sup>

On 9 November 2019, the EU launched a second pilot for the ERASMUS+ program with an expected 12 per cent increase of EUR3 billion for 2020.<sup>4437</sup> The goal of the program is to create 35,000 opportunities for students as a part of the Africa-Europe Alliance for sustainable investment and jobs. The program will provide European students with an opportunity to study abroad, increase professional opportunities, and diversify and expand educational prospects.<sup>4438</sup> In addition to the vocational education and training sector, ERASMUS+ also provides support for youth and sport training and adult education. ERASMUS+ further intends to create equal access for participants of all economic, social, and cultural backgrounds, including disadvantaged groups.<sup>4439</sup>

On 13 November 2019, the EU held a meeting in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss the project "Towards a European STE(A)M Platform." This meeting emphasized the development and implementation of national education strategies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).<sup>4440</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the EU announced the extension of the second stage of the Conditional Cash Transfer for Education program. The program strives to aid refugee children by offering financial support, removing educational barriers, and increasing enrolment and attendance rates. In enabling the second phase of the program, the EU has contributed EUR50 million to refugee education.<sup>4441</sup>

On 22 April 2020, the EU launched a new pilot program in Brussels, Belgium.<sup>4442</sup> The European Investment Fund and the European Commission will invest EUR50 million in developing skills and education across Europe.<sup>4443</sup> The purpose of this program is to support students in all forms of education and training, and to ensure that Europe is able to develop and lead in global technological advancements.<sup>4444</sup>

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<sup>4435</sup> Declaration on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment, G7 Information Centre (Biarritz) 26 August 2019.

Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2019biarritz/declaration-on-gender-equality.pdf>

<sup>4436</sup> Education experts gather at the European Education Summit, NESET (Brussels) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://nesetweb.eu/en/news/education-experts-gather-at-the-european-education-summit/>

<sup>4437</sup> Erasmus+: EU will invest over 3 billion in young Europeans to study or train abroad in 2020, Modern Diplomacy. 9 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2019/11/09/erasmus-eu-will-invest-over-e3-billion-in-young-europeans-to-study-or-train-abroad-in-2020/>

<sup>4438</sup> Second Pilot on European Universities' alliance launched, University World News (London) 9 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.universityworldnews.com/post.php?story=20191108070614822>

<sup>4439</sup> Erasmus+: EU will invest over 3 billion in young Europeans to study or train abroad in 2020, Modern Diplomacy. 9 November 2019. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2019/11/09/erasmus-eu-will-invest-over-e3-billion-in-young-europeans-to-study-or-train-abroad-in-2020/>

<sup>4440</sup> BusinessEurope- Education and Training Working Group, EU Stem Coalition (Brussels) 13 November 2019. Access Date: 11 February 2020. <http://www.stemcoalition.eu/publications/business-europe-education-and-training-working-group>

<sup>4441</sup> UNICEF and EU Announce the Extension of the "conditional cash transfer for education" program, UNICEF (Ankara) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/turkey/en/press-releases/unicef-and-eu-announce-extension-conditional-cash-transfer-education-ccte-programme>

<sup>4442</sup> EU launches new €50 million pilot to develop skills and education across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_694](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_694)

<sup>4443</sup> EU launches new €50 million pilot to develop skills and education across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_694](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_694)

<sup>4444</sup> EU launches new €50 million pilot to develop skills and education across Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_694](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_694)

On 5 September 2020, the G20 Ministers of Education reaffirmed the commitment to ensure quality education for all, emphasizing the importance of education continuity in times of crisis, early childhood education, and internationalization in education.<sup>4445</sup>

On 22 September 2020, the EU contributed EUR30.6 million in support of Palestinian refugees residing in Lebanon.<sup>4446</sup> The funds will aid Palestinian refugees by providing them with life-saving services and equitable access to educational resources.<sup>4447</sup> This program is also designed to alleviate the impacts of COVID-19 on the Palestinian refugee community.<sup>4448</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the EU adopted a new resolution on its Youth Guarantee program.<sup>4449</sup> The Youth Guarantee program works to decrease youth unemployment by investing in vocational education, training and apprenticeships.<sup>4450</sup> The program was amended due to the rising rate of youth unemployment under COVID-19.<sup>4451</sup>

The EU has taken steps to fully comply with all three pillars of the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development. Specifically, the EU focused on enhancing teacher training, providing vocational training in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, as well as innovation, and highlighting educational accessibility for disadvantaged groups such as girls and refugees.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Nour Ellassinty*

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<sup>4445</sup> G20 Education Ministers' Communique, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2020/2020-g20-education-0905.html>

<sup>4446</sup> The European Union contributes EUR30.6 million to support Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, United Nations Relief and Works Agency For Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (Brussels) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/european-union-contributes-eur-306-million-support-palestinian-refugees#block-menu-block-10>

<sup>4447</sup> The European Union contributes EUR30.6 million to support Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, United Nations Relief and Works Agency For Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (Brussels) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/european-union-contributes-eur-306-million-support-palestinian-refugees#block-menu-block-10>

<sup>4448</sup> The European Union contributes EUR30.6 million to support Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon, United Nations Relief and Works Agency For Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (Brussels) 22 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/press-releases/european-union-contributes-eur-306-million-support-palestinian-refugees#block-menu-block-10>

<sup>4449</sup> Covid-19: How the EU fights youth unemployment, European Parliament (Brussels) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200709STO83004/covid-19-how-the-eu-fights-youth-unemployment>

<sup>4450</sup> Covid-19: How the EU fights youth unemployment, European Parliament (Brussels) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200709STO83004/covid-19-how-the-eu-fights-youth-unemployment>

<sup>4451</sup> Covid-19: How the EU fights youth unemployment, European Parliament (Brussels) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/society/20200709STO83004/covid-19-how-the-eu-fights-youth-unemployment>

## 15. Health: Ageing Populations

“We will promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany		0	
India		0	
Indonesia	-1		
Italy	-1		
Japan			+1
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa	-1		
Turkey	-1		
United Kingdom		0	
United States		0	
European Union			+1
Average		+0.10 (55%)	

### Background

G20 leaders made their first health-related commitments at the 2014 Brisbane Summit in response to the Ebola virus outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.<sup>4452</sup> They also urged the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund to “continue their strong support for the affected countries” and explore innovative ways to globally prepare against the economic impacts of infectious diseases.<sup>4453</sup> The G20 also recommitted to fully implementing the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations. G20 members committed to strengthening global health systems and building the capacity to “prevent, detect, report early and respond to infectious diseases” and address anti-microbial resistance (AMR).<sup>4454</sup>

<sup>4452</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>4453</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>4454</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, G20 leaders committed to “address current opportunities and challenges brought into the labour markets through ... the ageing of populations.”<sup>4455</sup> The G20 recognized the potential of investing in domestic labour mobility, thus adopting the “G20 Principles on Silver Economy and Active Ageing.”<sup>4456</sup> The document generally focuses on enhanced support for senior citizens through reducing discriminatory employment practices and also improving the accessibility of various social services.<sup>4457</sup> While the document makes mention of healthcare investment and “coordination between studies on health, macro- and labour- economics, and innovation,”<sup>4458</sup> an explicit and binding commitment on ageing policies still remains absent from summit negotiations.

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 committed to align its work with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), launched by the United Nations in 2015.<sup>4459</sup> The G20 recognized that health is a key component for socioeconomic stability and sustainable development with regards to achieving SDGs 1, 3 and 5. SDG 1 is “to end poverty in all forms everywhere,” SDG 3 is to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being” and SDG 5 is to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.”<sup>4460</sup>

From 19 to 20 May 2017 in Berlin, Germany, the G20 health ministers met for the first time to address health-related issues in terms of “global health crisis management,” “health systems strengthening” and “antimicrobial resistance.”<sup>4461</sup> To address strengthening health systems, the WHO, International Labour Organization, and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development jointly published “Working for Health: A Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth (2017-2021).”<sup>4462</sup> The plan was adopted at the 70th World Health Assembly on 29 May 2017.<sup>4463</sup> At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the G20 reaffirmed its commitments to “safeguarding against health crises,” “strengthening global health systems” and “combatting antimicrobial resistance.”<sup>4464</sup>

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<sup>4455</sup> G20 Leader’ Communiqué, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

<sup>4456</sup> ANNEX VI: G20 Principles on Silver Economy and Active Ageing, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 to 20 November 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Principles-on-Silver-Economy-and-Active-Ageing.pdf>.

<sup>4457</sup> ANNEX VI: G20 Principles on Silver Economy and Active Ageing, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 to 20 November 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Principles-on-Silver-Economy-and-Active-Ageing.pdf>.

<sup>4458</sup> ANNEX VI: G20 Principles on Silver Economy and Active Ageing, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 10 to 20 November 2015. Access Date: 15 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/G20-Principles-on-Silver-Economy-and-Active-Ageing.pdf>.

<sup>4459</sup> G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Hangzhou. G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/g20-action-plan-on-2030-agenda.pdf>

<sup>4460</sup> Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015, United Nations (New York) 21 October 2015. Access Date: 19 November 2019. [https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Resolution\\_A\\_RES\\_70\\_1\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/Resolution_A_RES_70_1_EN.pdf)

<sup>4461</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers: Together Today for a Healthy Tomorrow, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access Date 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>4462</sup> Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth (2017-2021), World Health Organization, International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/272941/9789241514149-eng.pdf?ua=1>

<sup>4463</sup> Human resources for health and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations’ High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, World Health Assembly (Geneva) 29 May 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2019. [http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf\\_files/WHA70/A70\\_R6-en.pdf?ua=1](http://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA70/A70_R6-en.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>4464</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 extended its commitments to health-related issues to include “[tackling] malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity.”<sup>4465</sup> It also reaffirmed its support for strengthening health systems “to achieve better access to health care and to improve its quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage, in line with their national contexts and priorities.”<sup>4466</sup> The G20 also pledged to “ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.”<sup>4467</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 leaders committed to strengthening global health systems through focussing on quality in terms of enhancing the health workforce and the promotion of innovation (e.g., digital and technological) in the public and private sector.<sup>4468</sup> The G20 expanded its commitment of health-related issues to include “healthy and active ageing,” which will be promoted through “policy measures to address health promotion.”<sup>4469</sup> The G20 pledged to implement policies to address dementia that aim “to improve quality of lives of people with dementia and caregivers.” G20 leaders also pledged to improve preparedness and response to health emergencies, which includes “strengthening [their] own capacities and the capacities of other countries in compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) International Health Regulations (2005).”<sup>4470</sup> The G20 pledged to provide financial and technical support to countries affected with Ebola and reaffirmed its commitment to eradicate polio as well as end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>4471</sup> G20 leaders also agreed to tackle AMR with the One-Health approach and through the work of Global AMR R&D Hub.<sup>4472</sup>

According to the WHO, the number of people over 60 years of age is expected to double by 2050.<sup>4473</sup> With many countries facing an increasingly ageing population due to declining fertility and increasing life expectancy, it is important not only to address the well-being of older persons but also to create age-friendly environments that encourage older people to actively participate in society. The WHO’s focus on healthy ageing between 2015 and 2030 replaces its previous policy framework on active ageing in 2002.<sup>4474</sup>

The 2020–2030 Decade of Healthy Aging, builds on the WHO’s Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health.<sup>4475</sup> It is the second phase of the action plan and aims to address health across multiple sectors through “ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the

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<sup>4465</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Summits (Argentina) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4466</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Summits (Argentina) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4467</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development, G20 Summits (Argentina) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4468</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4469</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4470</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4471</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4472</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4473</sup> Number of people over 60 years set to double by 2050; major societal changes required, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 September 2015. Access Date: 3 March 2020.

<https://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2015/older-persons-day/en/>

<sup>4474</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4475</sup> World report on ageing and health 2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2020. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811\\_eng.pdf](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf)

lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live.”<sup>4476</sup> It focuses on enabling equitable access to health services and long-term care for older people; combat ageism; foster age-friendly environments that consider the varying abilities of older people; deliver integrated and primary health care that is responsive to older people; strengthen data and promote research to accelerate the implementation of data-driven health policies and action; and provide opportunities that promote intergenerational solidarity by being inclusive of the perspectives of young and old people, family members, caregivers, governments, and civil society organizations, which enable meaningful engagement in health and well-being discourse.<sup>4477</sup> The Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030 is aligned with the SDGs, as it recognizes the implication of healthy ageing on preventing poverty (SDG 1) and enabling food security (SDG 2), good health and well-being (SDG 3), life-long education and learning (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), job opportunities for older people (SDG 8), age-inclusive infrastructure (SDG 9), equitable access to services (SDG 10), age-friendly environments and communities (SDG 11), age-friendly institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships across various sectors, investments, and stakeholders (SDG 17).<sup>4478</sup>

The current G20 commitment reflects pledges made by G20 leaders and previous summits and highlights its new commitment to “promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.”<sup>4479</sup> This commitment focuses on quality and recognizes that progress towards universal health coverage and the achievement of the SDGs are tied to approaching health with a life course perspective that recognizes that earlier life experiences influence the way people age.

### Commitment Features

This commitment has two components: 1) healthy ageing and 2) active aging.

“Health” is understood to mean “the state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”<sup>4480</sup> In the active ageing context, this refers to “policies and programmes that promote mental and social connections.”<sup>4481</sup>

“Promote” is understood to mean “support or renew old efforts or create new efforts in the area,” which implies that it should not have to be a brand new initiative.<sup>4482</sup> It also refers to “[contributing] to growth or prosperity of, to help bring into being.”<sup>4483</sup>

“Healthy ageing” refers to “the process of developing and maintaining functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age.”<sup>4484</sup> Wellbeing is understood in the broadest sense, which includes “happiness,

<sup>4476</sup> Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030: What is the Decade of Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 3 March 2020. <https://www.who.int/ageing/decade-of-healthy-ageing>

<sup>4477</sup> Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 12 April 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/decade-of-healthy-ageing/final-decade-proposal/decade-proposal-final-apr2020-en.pdf?sfvrsn=b4b75ebc\\_3](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/decade-of-healthy-ageing/final-decade-proposal/decade-proposal-final-apr2020-en.pdf?sfvrsn=b4b75ebc_3)

<sup>4478</sup> Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 12 April 2020. [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/decade-of-healthy-ageing/final-decade-proposal/decade-proposal-final-apr2020-en.pdf?sfvrsn=b4b75ebc\\_3](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/decade-of-healthy-ageing/final-decade-proposal/decade-proposal-final-apr2020-en.pdf?sfvrsn=b4b75ebc_3)

<sup>4479</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>4480</sup> Health Systems Strengthening Glossary, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 20 November 2019. [https://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss\\_glossary/en/index5.html](https://www.who.int/healthsystems/hss_glossary/en/index5.html)

<sup>4481</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

<sup>4482</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 20 November 2019.

<sup>4483</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 2 May 2016. Access Date: 20 November 2019.

satisfaction and fulfilment.”<sup>4485</sup> Functional ability encompasses an individual’s “intrinsic capacity” and “environmental characteristics.”<sup>4486</sup> The intrinsic capacity of an individual is “all the mental and physical capabilities that a person can draw on and includes their ability to walk, think, see hear and remember.”<sup>4487</sup> By contrast, “environmental characteristics” encompass “the home, community and broader society, and all the factors within them such as the built environment, people and their relationships, attitudes and values, health and social policies, the systems that support them and the services that they implement.”<sup>4488</sup> There are two ways to achieve functional ability: by supporting the development and maintenance of intrinsic capacity or by enabling individuals with functional ability challenges to do things that are meaningful to them.<sup>4489</sup>

Two considerations of healthy ageing include “diversity” and “inequity.”<sup>4490</sup> There is “no typical older person” since people experience varying degrees of physical and mental incapacity, so policies should reflect the diversity in capacity of older people.<sup>4491</sup> Policies that seek to improve the functional ability of older individuals should be inclusive of the varying capabilities of older individuals. Inequity addresses how one’s family, sex, ethnicity, level of education and financial resources shape their relationship with their environments.<sup>4492</sup> Policies that promote health in terms of healthy ageing should seek to support and maintain autonomy and independence of ageing individuals, such as action on assistive devices and developing environments that support intrinsic capacity, with attention to diversity and inequity.

“Active ageing” refers to “the process of optimizing opportunities for health, participation and security in order to enhance quality of life as people age,”<sup>4493</sup> which embraces a life course perspective. The term “active” is understood to mean “continuing participation in social, economic, cultural, spiritual and civic affairs, not just the ability to be physically active or to participate in the labour force.”<sup>4494</sup> The WHO outlines six determinants of active ageing, specifically health and social service systems, the physical environment, and economic, behavioural, personal, and social factors.<sup>4495</sup> Therefore, active ageing-related policy initiatives should “recognize the need to encourage and balance personal responsibility (self-care), age-friendly environments and intergenerational

<sup>4484</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4485</sup> World report on ageing and health 2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2020. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>4486</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4487</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4488</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4489</sup> World report on ageing and health 2015, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2015. Access Date: 9 April 2020. [https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>4490</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4491</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4492</sup> Ageing and Life-Course: What is Healthy Ageing? World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.who.int/ageing/healthy-ageing/en/>

<sup>4493</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

<sup>4494</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

<sup>4495</sup> <sup>4495</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

solidarity.”<sup>4496</sup> Policies that promote active ageing should aim to support food and income security and encourage physical activity and social, economic, and cultural inclusion, which enable people to actively participate in their communities and improve their quality of life as they age. Active ageing policies should also aim to “reduce risk factors associated with major diseases and increase factors that protect health throughout the life course”; “develop a continuum of affordable, accessible, high-quality and age-friendly health and social services that address the needs and rights of people as they age”; and “provide training and education to caregivers.”<sup>4497</sup>

To achieve full compliance, the G20 member is required to take action to strongly promote both healthy ageing and active ageing through policy measures. Strongly promoting healthy ageing means that the G20 member has taken policy action to fully address functional ability in terms of intrinsic capacity and environmental characteristics, with consideration to both equity and diversity. It also means that the G20 member has taken policy action to fully optimize health and enhance security, quality of life, and social, political, cultural, and/or economic inclusion of older people. Partial compliance entails the G20 member taking action on strongly promoting healthy ageing or strongly promoting active ageing or some aspects of both that constitute less than strongly promoting. No compliance constitutes taking no action on healthy ageing nor active ageing.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member has taken no policy action to promote healthy ageing OR to promote active ageing.
0	G20 member has taken policy action to strongly promote healthy ageing OR to strongly promote active ageing OR some of aspects of both that constitute less than strongly promoting.
+1	G20 member has taken policy action to promote healthy ageing AND to promote active ageing.

*Compliance Director: Susba Guan  
Lead Analyst: Yiyao (Wenny) Jin*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

In early March, Programa de Atención Médica Integral (PAMI), a public health service for senior citizens, introduced measures to protect elderly persons living in long-term care residences COVID-19.<sup>4498</sup> Through the measures, PAMI created the Care Residences Program to promote a community of care and monitor the status of long-term care residences during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4499</sup> According to the Care Residences Program Action Plan, PAMI:

<sup>4496</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

<sup>4497</sup> Active Ageing: A Policy Framework, World Health Organization (Geneva). Access Date: 12 April 2020. [https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active\\_ageing/en/](https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/active_ageing/en/)

<sup>4498</sup> Strengthening a Community of Care, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/960>; PAMI - National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/pami>

<sup>4499</sup> Strengthening a Community of Care, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/960>



- Established an expert committee called the “Contingency Committee for the Treatment of Coronavirus” to supervise the work of the medical and psychosocial teams in care residences.<sup>4500</sup>
- Shared sanitary protocols with care residences that the Committee developed in line with the guidelines published by the Ministry of Health to provide healthcare and preserve the life of the elderly during the pandemic.<sup>4501</sup>
- Created the Institutional and Community Monitoring Council aimed at providing accurate information to relatives of the elderly on the status of PAMI’s COVID-19 initiatives.<sup>4502</sup>
- Created a Territorial Technical Team focused on “coordination and implementation of the response actions offered by each of the Local Management Units (UGL) throughout the country to verify the security, hygiene, sanitation and conditions of the prevention elements in care residences.”<sup>4503</sup>
- Created a Psychosocial and Family Accompaniment Team.<sup>4504</sup>
- Agreed to make available to provincial and/or municipal governments “all the necessary resources for prevention, referral and isolation as well as for comprehensive cleaning, hygiene and disinfection of the establishment.”<sup>4505</sup>
- Increased the budget of the program by lending care residences USD400 million, corresponding to a payment of 4 per cent per member, with USD84 million allocated to purchase personal protection equipment.<sup>4506</sup>

On 7 March 2020, PAMI published health protocols for long-term care residences in Argentina.<sup>4507</sup> The protocols call for restrictions on visitors and ensuring the hygiene, care and containment of personnel to preserve the life of the elderly, in line with guidelines published by the Ministry of Health.<sup>4508</sup> The protocols included an affidavit that all care residences must sign to guarantee their compliance with the protocols.<sup>4509</sup>

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<sup>4500</sup> Strengthening a Community of Care, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/960>; Care Residences Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas>

<sup>4501</sup> Strengthening a Community of Care, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/960>

<sup>4502</sup> Care Residences Program - Action Plan, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas/plan-de-accion>

<sup>4503</sup> Care Residences Program - Action Plan, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas/plan-de-accion>

<sup>4504</sup> Care Residences Program - Action Plan, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas/plan-de-accion>

<sup>4505</sup> Care Residences Program - Action Plan, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas/plan-de-accion>

<sup>4506</sup> Care Residences Program - Action Plan, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas/plan-de-accion>

<sup>4507</sup> Care Residences Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas>

<sup>4508</sup> Care Residences Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas>

<sup>4509</sup> Care Residences Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

<https://www.pami.org.ar/residencias-cuidadas>

On 10 March 2020, President of Argentina Alberto Fernández and PAMI Executive Director Luana Volnovich presented a list of 170 free essential medicines for elderly and retirees that are part of the “Live Better” program.<sup>4510</sup> The free medicines “aim [to guarantee] the right to health of retirees” and would be allocated to the 5 million members of PAMI.<sup>4511</sup> PAMI agreed to finance the initiative with ARS30,000 million through a combination of its own resources and the Country Tax, a government levy applied to foreign expenses and the purchase of foreign currency.<sup>4512</sup> Known as the “Nuevo Vademecum PAMI”, the 170 free medicines were selected in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidance and following a review of scientific evidence gathered by PAMI.<sup>4513</sup> The PAMI Vademecum has the permanent supervision of an interdisciplinary commission of experts that evaluates criteria for the use and effectiveness of the medicines as well as the overall impact of the program.<sup>4514</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the Government published Legislative Decree 297/2020, imposing mandatory isolation and social distancing measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4515</sup> Under Article 6, the Government permitted exceptions from the social, preventive and compulsory isolation regime for essential workers, including caregivers for the elderly.<sup>4516</sup>

On 22 March 2020, the Ministry of Social Development published Resolution 133/2020, mandating that caregivers of individuals aged 60 or older must fill out an affidavit in order to certify compliance with the government’s framework of the isolation measures published in Decree 297/2020.<sup>4517</sup> The Resolution specified that “those responsible for such care and/or assistance must carry out everything in their power to collaborate with them in the realization of the basic and instrumental activities of daily life” and directed PAMI and the General Directorate of Legal Affairs of the Ministry of Social Development to implement the policy.<sup>4518</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the Ministry of Health published guidelines on providing assistance to the elderly during the COVID-19 pandemic, which allow caregivers to continue performing support tasks.<sup>4519</sup>

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<sup>4510</sup> President Alberto Fernández presented the list of free medicines for retirees, House of Government (Buenos Aires), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.casarosada.gob.ar/slider-principal/46760-el-presidente-alberto-fernandez-presento-el-listado-de-medicamentos-gratuitos-para-jubilados>

<sup>4511</sup> President Alberto Fernández presented the list of free medicines for retirees, House of Government (Buenos Aires), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.casarosada.gob.ar/slider-principal/46760-el-presidente-alberto-fernandez-presento-el-listado-de-medicamentos-gratuitos-para-jubilados>

<sup>4512</sup> President Alberto Fernández presented the list of free medicines for retirees, House of Government (Buenos Aires), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.casarosada.gob.ar/slider-principal/46760-el-presidente-alberto-fernandez-presento-el-listado-de-medicamentos-gratuitos-para-jubilados>

<sup>4513</sup> President Alberto Fernández presented the list of free medicines for retirees, House of Government (Buenos Aires), 10 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.casarosada.gob.ar/slider-principal/46760-el-presidente-alberto-fernandez-presento-el-listado-de-medicamentos-gratuitos-para-jubilados>

<sup>4514</sup> New Vademecum PAMI, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 11 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/957>

<sup>4515</sup> Preventive and Mandatory Social Isolation, Decree 297/2020, Official Gazette (Buenos Aires), 19 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227042/20200320>

<sup>4516</sup> Preventive and Mandatory Social Isolation, Decree 297/2020, Official Gazette (Buenos Aires), 19 March 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227042/20200320>

<sup>4517</sup> Resolution 133/2020 - RESOL-2020-133-APN-MDS, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 22 March 2020. Accessed 5 July 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227105/20200323>

<sup>4518</sup> Resolution 133/2020 - RESOL-2020-133-APN-MDS, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 22 March 2020. Accessed 5 July 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227105/20200323>

<sup>4519</sup> Assistance for the elderly during quarantine, National Agency for Disability (Buenos Aires), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/asistencia-de-personas-mayores-durante-la-cuarentena>

The information intended to “guarantee the right to care and to be cared for in this circumstance, while continuing to comply with preventive isolation measures.”<sup>4520</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of Health published recommendations for the elderly during the COVID-19 virus, which aimed to balance elderly wellbeing against the Government’s preventative and compulsory isolation order.<sup>4521</sup> Miriam Rozenek, a specialist in elderly care, explained, “in older adults, isolation is very complicated, so we must speak of physical and not social isolation. We must attend to physical distance, but without neglecting older adults.”<sup>4522</sup> Rozenek also recommended the use of “technology to make phone calls, videoconferences and contact on social networks” to reduce isolation.<sup>4523</sup>

On 2 April 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that it distributed more than 4 million of the 11.7 million doses of the influenza vaccine to carry out a “timely and staged” vaccination of individuals over 65 years old.<sup>4524</sup> The ministry underscored that regional provinces should prioritize the vaccination of health personnel and those over the age of 65 to ensure influenza immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4525</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Secretariat of Media and Public Content and PAMI agreed to create the online portal “PAMI Community” to support the elderly population during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4526</sup> A special section of the PAMI Community will provide public and free audiovisual content through CONTAR, a state media platform, with cultural programs dedicated specifically to older age groups.<sup>4527</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the Secretary of Media and Public Communication within the Head of the Cabinet of Ministers announced the #MoveteArgentina program to provide exercise routines and training tips through a public sports channel for people to practice in isolation.<sup>4528</sup> The press release

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<sup>4520</sup> Assistance for the elderly during quarantine, National Agency for Disability (Buenos Aires), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/asistencia-de-personas-mayores-durante-la-cuarentena>

<sup>4521</sup> Assistance for the elderly during quarantine, National Agency for Disability (Buenos Aires), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/asistencia-de-personas-mayores-durante-la-cuarentena>

<sup>4522</sup> Assistance for the elderly during quarantine, National Agency for Disability (Buenos Aires), 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/asistencia-de-personas-mayores-durante-la-cuarentena>

<sup>4523</sup> COVID-19: Recommendations for health care in older adults, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 30 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/covid-19-recomendaciones-para-el-cuidado-de-la-salud-en-adultos-mayores>

<sup>4524</sup> Health has already distributed more than 4 million of the 11 million doses of the flu vaccine to the country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 2 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-ya-distribuyo-todo-el-pais-mas-de-4000000-de-las-11740000-dosis-de-la-vacuna>

<sup>4525</sup> Health has already distributed more than 4 million of the 11 million doses of the flu vaccine to the country, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 2 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-ya-distribuyo-todo-el-pais-mas-de-4000000-de-las-11740000-dosis-de-la-vacuna>

<sup>4526</sup> PAMI Community, a section of audiovisual content for older adults of the Contar platform, Secretary of Media and Public Communication (Buenos Aires), 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comunidad-pami-una-seccion-de-contenidos-audiovisuales-para-adultos-mayores-de-la>

<sup>4527</sup> PAMI Community, a section of audiovisual content for older adults of the Contar platform, Secretary of Media and Public Communication (Buenos Aires), 3 April 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/comunidad-pami-una-seccion-de-contenidos-audiovisuales-para-adultos-mayores-de-la>

<sup>4528</sup> #MoveteArgentina, the new program of DEPORTV, Secretary of Media and Public Communication (Buenos Aires), 14 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/moveteargentina-el-nuevo-programa-de-deportv>

highlighted that a segment of the program is dedicated to elderly adults and features exercise advice by specialists and kinesiologists.<sup>4529</sup>

On 27 April 2020, National Deputy Graciela Ocaña proposed the creation of a Multisectoral Crisis Committee, with a focus on caring for the elderly in line with the government's COVID-19 response.<sup>4530</sup> The proposed committee would sit in the Ministry of Social Development and comprise of National Deputies and Senators from the Social Action, Population and Human Development and Health committees and PAMI.<sup>4531</sup> The proposed Committee would aim to issue recommendations regarding protocols for care, containment and assistance to the elderly in health centers and long-term care establishments, as well as regarding measures to meet the elderly's social and economic needs and any other issue that the Enforcement Authority considers important and that aims to protect the elderly during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4532</sup>

On 1 May 2020, the Ministry of Social Development published Resolution 258/2020, in which it reaffirmed its responsibility for all matters inherent to social policy during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4533</sup> The ministry mentioned assistance, promotion, care and social inclusion, human development, food security, housing, poverty reduction, and development of equal opportunities for the most vulnerable sectors, including the elderly population, as areas of its competence in line with all treaties and multinational agreements.<sup>4534</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Minister of Social Development Daniel Arroyo and Minister of Health Ginés González García published recommendations on preventing the spread of COVID-19 amongst the elderly.<sup>4535</sup> The recommendations underscored the need for a “community approach” in which municipalities link efforts with religious institutions, social organizations, neighbourhood clubs, schools and primary care centres, local emergency committees and the organization in each neighborhood of Points of Community Integration (PIC).<sup>4536</sup> Minister Arroyo and Minister García also discussed the importance of conducting surveys to detect, locate and register people with greater health and social vulnerability, implement risk-based care actions, establish a support,

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<sup>4529</sup> #MoveteArgentina, the new program of DEPORTV, Secretary of Media and Public Communication (Buenos Aires), 14 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/moveteargentina-el-nuevo-programa-de-deportv>

<sup>4530</sup> They promote the creation of a Crisis Committee specialized in older adults, *Parlamentario.com* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.parlamentario.com/2020/04/27/impulsan-la-creacion-de-un-comite-de-crisis-especializado-en-adultos-mayores/>

<sup>4531</sup> They promote the creation of a Crisis Committee specialized in older adults, *Parlamentario.com* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.parlamentario.com/2020/04/27/impulsan-la-creacion-de-un-comite-de-crisis-especializado-en-adultos-mayores/>

<sup>4532</sup> They promote the creation of a Crisis Committee specialized in older adults, *Parlamentario.com* (Buenos Aires) 27 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.parlamentario.com/2020/04/27/impulsan-la-creacion-de-un-comite-de-crisis-especializado-en-adultos-mayores/>

<sup>4533</sup> Resolution 258/2020, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 1 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/228718/20200506>

<sup>4534</sup> Resolution 258/2020, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 1 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/228718/20200506>

<sup>4535</sup> Guide of recommendations to avoid the spread in popular neighborhoods and the care of the elderly, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 14 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/guia-de-recomendaciones-para-evitar-la-propagacion-en-barrios-populares-y-el-cuidado-de>

<sup>4536</sup> Joint signature resolution number RESFC-2020-2-APN-MS, Argentine Republic - National Executive Power (Buenos Aires), 17 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. [https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/rs-2020-26433879-apn-ms\\_1\\_0.pdf](https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/rs-2020-26433879-apn-ms_1_0.pdf)

accompaniment and containment network, and ensure the provision of hygiene supplies and food for elderly in need.<sup>4537</sup>

On 26 May 2020, PAMI announced that the Ministry of Education donated 12,000 protection masks to its employees and doctors caring for the elderly.<sup>4538</sup> Executive Director Volnovich, together with the Minister of Education, Nicolás Trotta, toured the factory producing the protection masks and received the first delivery of 5,000 units for care personnel.<sup>4539</sup>

On 26 May 2020, PAMI published an overview of the PAMI Food Program, through which it took measures to guarantee the food security and nutrition of elderly persons during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>4540</sup> For elderly in need, PAMI pledged to provide a basket of food products selected by nutritionists to complement their daily diet.<sup>4541</sup> For the 540,000 people in the PAMI Food Program, PAMI also added a direct sum of ARS1,600 to monthly pension payments to guarantee food and nutritional security.<sup>4542</sup> PAMI added a solidarity support subsidy to the provision of emergency food support for the network of Retiree and Pensioner Centers across the country.<sup>4543</sup>

On 15 June 2020, PAMI, the Dirección Nacional Para Adultos Mayores (DINAPAM), Secretaría Nacional de la Niñez, Adolescencia y Familia (SENAF) and the Ministry of Social Development announced Argentina's ninth national campaign to promote actions that respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the elderly people across the country.<sup>4544</sup> Called "New Ways to Accompany Us, the Same Need to be Close", the campaign's message focuses on the need to reinvent care for older people and avoid emotional isolation related to the measures imposed to prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4545</sup> The campaign also seeks to promote actions aimed at guaranteeing the rights of the elderly, to showcase the different ways of ageing, to strengthen social ties, to value the role of the elderly within the community, contribute to a positive image of old age and ensure compliance with the principles established in the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of the Elderly through the policies of the Government.<sup>4546</sup>

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<sup>4537</sup> Guide of recommendations to avoid the spread in popular neighborhoods and the care of the elderly, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 14 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020.

<https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/guia-de-recomendaciones-para-evitar-la-propagacion-en-barrios-populares-y-el-cuidado-de>

<sup>4538</sup> The Ministry of Education donated 12 Thousand Protective Masks, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/958>

<sup>4539</sup> The Ministry of Education donated 12 Thousand Protective Masks, PAMI (Benos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/958>

<sup>4540</sup> PAMI Food Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/959>

<sup>4541</sup> PAMI Food Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/959>

<sup>4542</sup> PAMI Food Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), no available date of publication. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/programa-alimentario>

<sup>4543</sup> PAMI Food Program, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 26 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/959>

<sup>4544</sup> World Day of Awareness of Abuse and Maltreatment in Old Age, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 15 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/962>

<sup>4545</sup> World Day of Awareness of Abuse and Maltreatment in Old Age, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 15 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/962>

<sup>4546</sup> World Day of Awareness of Abuse and Maltreatment in Old Age, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 15 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.pami.org.ar/novedades/novedad/962>

On 17 July 2020, the Ministry of Defense sponsored a training program to educate the public on preventing violence against the elderly.<sup>4547</sup> The training sessions, which took place online, commemorated the annual Day of Awareness against Abuse and Mistreatment of the Elderly and were delivered by professionals from the Intrafamily Violence Department of the General Directorate of Health within the Ministry of Defense.<sup>4548</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the Argentine government published a report aimed at developing the “care economy” for at-risk populations, including the elderly.<sup>4549</sup> Titled “Let’s Talk about Care,” the report defines “care” as “meeting the needs of people who require attention due to their age or their conditions/capacities.”<sup>4550</sup> The report states, “this is a historic event, since it is the first time that the National Government addresses the issue [of care] in a unified way as a state policy.”<sup>4551</sup> The report was published under the Inter-ministerial Roundtable of Care Policies, coordinated by the Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, the Ministry of the Economy and the Ministry of Education.<sup>4552</sup>

On 11 August 2020, PAMI announced the extension of a drug price freeze for retirees and pensioners until 31 October 2020.<sup>4553</sup> PAMI agreed to the price freeze in partnership with the Argentine Chamber of Medical Specialties, the Business Chamber of Pharmaceutical Laboratories and the Industrial Chamber of Pharmaceutical Laboratories due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4554</sup>

On 13 August 2020, Claudia Jaroslavsky, a policy official in the Directorate of Adults and Elderly People within the Ministry of Health, called on Argentina to reduce the stigmatization of the elderly during the pandemic.<sup>4555</sup> Ms. Jaroslavsky stated, “[t]his is an opportunity to banish myths and

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<sup>4547</sup> Online training in prevention of violence against older adults, Ministry of Defense (Buenos Aires), 29 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/capitacion-online-en-prevencion-de-la-violencia-contra-adultos-mayores>

<sup>4548</sup> Online training in prevention of violence against older adults, Ministry of Defense (Buenos Aires), 29 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/capitacion-online-en-prevencion-de-la-violencia-contra-adultos-mayores>

<sup>4549</sup> We present the first document prepared by the Interministerial Table of Care Policies, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-primer-documento-elaborado-por-la-mesa-interministerial-de-politicas-de>

<sup>4550</sup> We present the first document prepared by the Interministerial Table of Care Policies, Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity (Buenos Aires), 27 July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/presentamos-el-primer-documento-elaborado-por-la-mesa-interministerial-de-politicas-de>

<sup>4551</sup> Let’s Talk about Care, Inter-ministerial Roundtable of Care Policies (Buenos Aires) July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/mesa-interministerial-de-politicas-de-cuidado.pdf>

<sup>4552</sup> Let’s Talk about Care, Inter-ministerial Roundtable of Care Policies (Buenos Aires) July 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/sites/default/files/mesa-interministerial-de-politicas-de-cuidado.pdf>

<sup>4553</sup> PAMI has frozen the price of medicines until 31 October, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/284519-pami-congela-los-precios-de-los-medicamentos-hasta-el-31-de>

<sup>4554</sup> PAMI has frozen the price of medicines until 31 October, PAMI (Buenos Aires), 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.pagina12.com.ar/284519-pami-congela-los-precios-de-los-medicamentos-hasta-el-31-de>

<sup>4555</sup> Until a vaccine is available, it is necessary to maintain COVID-19 prevention measures, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/hasta-no-contar-con-una-vacuna-es-necesario-mantener-las-medidas-de-prevencion-de-covid-19>

prejudices and to be able to carry a positive image of old age. Ageing is not synonymous with disease; we must denaturalize discriminatory practices and work to have age-friendly cities and communities.”<sup>4556</sup>

On 28 August 2020, the Ministry of Social Development and PAMI signed an agreement to create a new rate regime in electricity and gas services for retirement centres.<sup>4557</sup> The rate regime guaranteed a “social tariff for electricity and gas” in order to “help [retirement centres] better navigate the current situation of the pandemic,” according to the Executive Director Volnovich.<sup>4558</sup>

On 21 September 2020, the Secretary for Access to Health, Carla Vizzotti, called for intergenerational solidarity in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4559</sup> Secretary Vizzotti asked younger Argentines to act responsibly in order to “interrupt chains of transmission and contagion” and protect the elderly and other at-risk populations from indirect contagion.<sup>4560</sup>

Argentina implemented policy measures in line with its commitment to promote healthy and active aging. The government’s health policies generally focus on functional ability with consideration to equity and diversity as well as intrinsic capacity and environmental characteristics of elderly individuals. Certain policy measures also target the health, participation and security of the elderly, including the support of the elderly through measures to ensure the safety of caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic and to promote intergenerational solidarity.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Ian Stansbury and Miles Harrison*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 1 July 2019, the Australian government reformed its residential aged care standards with the implementation of Aged Care Quality Standards to improve the quality and safety of care for senior Australians in government-funded aged care under the Commonwealth Home Support Programme.<sup>4561</sup>

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<sup>4556</sup> Until a vaccine is available, it is necessary to maintain COVID-19 prevention measures, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 13 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/hasta-no-contar-con-una-vacuna-es-necesario-mantener-las-medidas-de-prevencion-de-covid-19>

<sup>4557</sup> We signed an agreement with PAMI so that retirement centers have access to a differential rate for electricity and gas, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 28 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/firmamos-convenio-con-pami-para-que-centros-de-jubilados-tengan-acceso-tarifa-diferencial-0>

<sup>4558</sup> We signed an agreement with PAMI so that retirement centers have access to a differential rate for electricity and gas, Ministry of Social Development (Buenos Aires), 28 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/firmamos-convenio-con-pami-para-que-centros-de-jubilados-tengan-acceso-tarifa-diferencial-0>

<sup>4559</sup> On Student Day, Health calls for intergenerational solidarity to prevent COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 21 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-el-dia-del-estudiante-salud-llama-la-solidaridad-intergeneracional-para-prevenir-covid>

<sup>4560</sup> On Student Day, Health calls for intergenerational solidarity to prevent COVID-19, Ministry of Health (Buenos Aires), 21 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-el-dia-del-estudiante-salud-llama-la-solidaridad-intergeneracional-para-prevenir-covid>

<sup>4561</sup> Delivering safety and quality in Australia’s aged care system, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-safety-and-quality-in-australias-aged-care-system>

In addition to these reforms, “a new basic daily fee will be set based on the customers home care package level, reducing fees by up to AUD400 for those on lower packages.”<sup>4562</sup>

On 1 July 2019, the Australian government introduced a new Charter of Aged Care Rights that “enshrines 14 rights for senior Australians in care” in a format that is easy to read and replaces the former charters of care recipients’ rights and responsibilities for residential care, home care and short-term restorative care.<sup>4563</sup> The new charter is designed to “[make] it easier for aged care consumers (people receiving aged care services), families and carers to understand what they can expect from an aged care service provider.”<sup>4564</sup>

On 8 July 2019, Minister for Indigenous Australians Ken Wyatt and Minister for Health Greg Hunt announced an investment of “more than AUD5.6 million in medical research focusing on healthy ageing for Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander peoples.”<sup>4565</sup> Through a culturally-sensitive approach to research, the National Health and Medical Research Council aims to “improve the health and experience of ageing of older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.”<sup>4566</sup>

On 8 July 2019, Minister for Aged Care and Senior Australians Richard Colbeck and Senator for the Northern Territory Sam McMahon pledged AUD20 million to establish the Nhulunbuy Flexible Aged Care Service, which is a new aged care service implemented through the collaborative effort of the Commonwealth and Australian Regional and Remote Community Services, for Nhulunbuy in East Arnhem Land.<sup>4567</sup> The initiative aims to increase the capacity for culturally-sensitive aged care, enhance the quality of service and care and improve the accessibility of care for Indigenous Australians.<sup>4568</sup>

On 31 July 2019, the Australian government granted AUD1.8 million to the Walking Football One Million+ program, which was created through the partnership between Football Federation Australia and Active Ageing Australia.<sup>4569</sup> The initiative aims to promote social inclusion and improve the

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<sup>4562</sup> Delivering safety and quality in Australia’s aged care system, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-safety-and-quality-in-australias-aged-care-system>

<sup>4563</sup> Delivering safety and quality in Australia’s aged care system, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-safety-and-quality-in-australias-aged-care-system>

<sup>4564</sup> Charter of Aged Care Rights, Older Persons Advocacy Network (Sydney) 1 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://opan.com.au/charter/>

<sup>4565</sup> New research projects to focus on healthy ageing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/new-research-projects-to-focus-on-healthy-ageing-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples>

<sup>4566</sup> \$5.6 million for research into healthy ageing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/56-million-for-research-into-healthy-ageing-of-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples>

<sup>4567</sup> Delivering new aged care service for Nhulunbuy, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-new-aged-care-service-for-nhulunbuy>

<sup>4568</sup> Delivering new aged care service for Nhulunbuy, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-new-aged-care-service-for-nhulunbuy>

<sup>4569</sup> Walking Football to deliver one million active hours for seniors, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2019. Access Date 29 February 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/walking-football-to-deliver-one-million-active-hours-for-seniors>



physical activity and mental health of senior Australians by “[delivering] an additional one million active hours over the next two years” for older persons.<sup>4570</sup>

On 17 September 2019, Minister Colbeck pledged AUD150 million over three years to increase the access to entry-level home support of senior Australians.<sup>4571</sup> Home support services will be delivered under the Common Home Support Programme, which is a program that provides entry-level home support for frail older persons.<sup>4572</sup>

On 29 October 2019, Minister Hunt announced the new mobile Medicare x-ray services available at residential aged care facilities beginning 1 November 2019.<sup>4573</sup> According to Minister Colbeck, the initiative will improve the accessibility of medical treatment for senior Australians and save on costs.<sup>4574</sup>

On 15 November 2019, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released a first-time report entitled “Interfaces between the aged care and health systems in Australia — first results,” which examined the use of health services by older people using different types of aged care.<sup>4575</sup> The report illustrated how data-based evidence can contribute to the development of social policy and strengthen the understanding of health and aged care, which can serve to enhance health services for older persons.<sup>4576</sup>

On 25 November 2019, as a response to the Interim Report of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety released on 31 October 2019, the Australian government announced an investment of AUD537 million into creating “10,000 home care packages”; “improv[ing] medication management and dementia training”; and reducing the number of younger people with disabilities entering residential aged care.<sup>4577</sup>

On 5 December 2019, the government successfully secured the passage of the Aged Care Legislation Amendment (New Commissioner Functions) Bill 2019, which expands the Aged Care Quality and Safety

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<sup>4570</sup> Walking Football to deliver one million active hours for seniors, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 July 2019. Access Date 29 February 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/walking-football-to-deliver-one-million-active-hours-for-seniors>

<sup>4571</sup> Supporting Australians to live independently for longer, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/supporting-more-australians-to-live-independently-for-longer>

<sup>4572</sup> Delivering on our commitment to support more senior Australians to live independently for longer, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/delivering-on-our-commitment-to-support-more-senior-australians-to-live-independently-for-longer>

<sup>4573</sup> New Medicare support for older Australians, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-medicare-support-for-older-australians>

<sup>4574</sup> New Medicare support for older Australians, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/new-medicare-support-for-older-australians>

<sup>4575</sup> Exploring how older Australians in aged care use health services, Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Canberra) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/2019/november-1/exploring-how-older-australians-in-aged-care-use-h>

<sup>4576</sup> Exploring how older Australians in aged care use health services, Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Canberra) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/2019/november-1/exploring-how-older-australians-in-aged-care-use-h>

<sup>4577</sup> Response to Aged Care Royal Commission Interim Report, Prime Ministers of Australia (Canberra) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/response-aged-care-royal-commission-interim-report>

Commission effective 1 January 2020.<sup>4578</sup> The bill expands the role of the Commissioner to include “approving all residential and home care providers; aged care compliance and enforcement actions; and the administration of the responsibilities of approved providers to report assaults.”<sup>4579</sup> The expanded regulatory functions and additional powers of the Commissioner will ensure greater safety and quality.<sup>4580</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Acting Minister of Health Alan Tudge and Minister Colbeck, announced an investment of AUD22 million in research to improve aged care and health outcomes of older Australians.<sup>4581</sup> Actions funded by this investment include research into intervention strategies for age-related disease and care for frail older persons.<sup>4582</sup>

On 16 December 2019, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission released a report, entitled “Consumers’ experience of residential aged care, Australia 2017-19,” which revealed the result of an independent analysis on residential consumer experience reports data. The report enables a better understanding of the experiences of older Australians living in residential aged care.<sup>4583</sup>

On 18 December 2019, Minister Colbeck announced the “availability of new government subsidised aged care places released as part of the 2020 Aged Care Approvals Round.”<sup>4584</sup> Minister Colbeck also announced an investment of AUD60 million to help residential aged care providers with infrastructure and building costs.<sup>4585</sup>

On 1 January 2020, Minister Colbeck announced a further investment of AUD623.9 million in the year of 2019-2020 in a “series of targeted measures” that aim to ensure quality of care.<sup>4586</sup>

On 17 January 2020, the Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission released the draft Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission Roadmap for public consultation.<sup>4587</sup> The consultation grants the

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<sup>4578</sup> Strengthening independent oversight of aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/strengthening-independent-oversight-of-aged-care>

<sup>4579</sup> Strengthening independent oversight of aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/strengthening-independent-oversight-of-aged-care>

<sup>4580</sup> Strengthening independent oversight of aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/strengthening-independent-oversight-of-aged-care>

<sup>4581</sup> \$22 million funding for ageing and aged care research, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/22-million-funding-for-ageing-and-aged-care-research>

<sup>4582</sup> \$22 million funding for ageing and aged care research, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/22-million-funding-for-ageing-and-aged-care-research>

<sup>4583</sup> Consumer experience of residential aged care explored in new report, Australian Government Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (Canberra) 16 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/2019/december/consumer-experience-of-residential-aged-care-explo>

<sup>4584</sup> Meeting future demand for residential aged care places, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/meeting-future-demand-for-residential-aged-care-places>

<sup>4585</sup> Meeting future demand for residential aged care places, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/meeting-future-demand-for-residential-aged-care-places>

<sup>4586</sup> Important changes to improve the quality of aged care start today, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/important-changes-to-improve-the-quality-of-aged-care-start-today>

Australian public the opportunity to evaluate the current strategy and assist the government in its planning for the prioritization of funding for critical dementia and aged care research.<sup>4588</sup>

On 31 January 2020, Minister Colbeck pledged AUD50 million towards a “targeted aged care Business Improvement Fund,” which will “[support] facilities and [improve] business operations.”<sup>4589</sup> Funds will be used to implement new business strategies, maintain services during transfer of residence between providers and ensure the maintenance care standards during home closure.<sup>4590</sup>

On 6 February 2020, Minister Hunt announced the investment of AUD5.5 million in ten groundbreaking medical research projects aimed at “improving outcomes in mental health, dementia, aged care, cerebral palsy, diabetes and many more life-changing conditions.”<sup>4591</sup> Additionally, AUD2.7 million will be provided to four international research projects aimed towards investigating and improving personalized medicine and clinical trials to improve dementia diagnosis and treatment.<sup>4592</sup>

On 9 March 2020, Minister Colbeck and Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Brendan Murphy convened the Aged Care COVID-19 Preparedness Forum to help ensure the “continued delivery of safe, quality care to senior Australians.”<sup>4593</sup> Strategies of approach for aged care providers and the government were discussed and consolidated to protect those living in residences.

On 11 March 2020, the Australian government pledged AUD2.4 billion towards a health plan to fight COVID-19. The COVID-19 National Health Plan aims “to protect all Australians, including vulnerable groups such as the elderly, those with chronic conditions and Indigenous communities, from the coronavirus (COVID-19)”<sup>4594</sup> and support “primary care, aged care, hospitals, research and the national medical stockpile.”<sup>4595</sup> AUD101.2million of the AUD2.4 billion will go towards aged care as part of the front-line defense measures to “protect [aged care] residents, staff, and their families

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<sup>4587</sup> Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission Roadmap released for public consultation, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/dementia-ageing-and-aged-care-mission-roadmap-released-for-public-consultation>

<sup>4588</sup> Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission Roadmap released for public consultation, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 17 January 2020. Access Date: 30 January 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/dementia-ageing-and-aged-care-mission-roadmap-released-for-public-consultation>

<sup>4589</sup> Targeted support to improve residential aged care services, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/targeted-support-to-improve-residential-age-care-services>

<sup>4590</sup> Targeted support to improve residential aged care services, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/targeted-support-to-improve-residential-age-care-services>

<sup>4591</sup> \$5.5 million for international research collaborations in human health, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/55-million-for-international-research-collaborations-in-human-health>

<sup>4592</sup> \$5.5 million for international research collaborations in human health, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/55-million-for-international-research-collaborations-in-human-health>

<sup>4593</sup> Statement from the Aged Care COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 9 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/statement-from-the-aged-care-covid-19-preparedness-forum>

<sup>4594</sup> \$2.4 Billion Health Plan to Fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19>

<sup>4595</sup> 2.4 Billion Health Plan to Fight COVID-19, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 29 March 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19>

across the country.”<sup>4596</sup> Additionally, the government is investing in national medical stockpile, which includes personal protective equipment for staff and a AUD30 million National Communications Campaign to inform citizens of the best practices for virus containment.<sup>4597</sup>

On 12 March 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the opening of a new residential care facility at Wamuran in Queensland’s Southeast.<sup>4598</sup> The facility is part of a new development, Beaumont care, and also has a “secure memory support unit equipped to provide specialized care for those living with dementia” as one of its four interconnected homes.<sup>4599</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister Colbeck and Acting Minister Tudge jointly announced the relaxation of regulations regarding the hours that international students are allowed to work in the aged care sector.<sup>4600</sup> This is to maintain the quality of care and protection afforded to senior Australians despite staff shortages due to COVID-19.

On 18 March 2020, Minister Colbeck announced additional aged care visitation restrictions to protect residents from COVID-19, including the specification of protocol, locations for visitation and persons allowed to visit.<sup>4601</sup> Additionally, facilities are encouraged to ensure the availability of alternative methods of visitation (e.g. video calls), to conduct screening of all visitors and to provide handwashing facilities and alcohol-based rubs at all entrances.<sup>4602</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Minister Colbeck announced AUD444.6 million to strengthen support for the aged care workforce, which will include “a COVID-19 ‘retention bonus’”<sup>4603</sup> to support aged care providers, residential care support, and funding for the “Residential and Home Care Viability Supplements and the Homeless Supplement,”<sup>4604</sup> including “equivalent viability funding increases for

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<sup>4596</sup> Funding boost for aged care set to strengthen defence against COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/statement-from-the-aged-care-covid-19-preparedness-forum>

<sup>4597</sup> Funding boost for aged care set to strengthen defence against COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/statement-from-the-aged-care-covid-19-preparedness-forum>

<sup>4598</sup> New residential aged care facility marks new era for Wamuran, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-residential-aged-care-facility-marks-new-era-for-wamuran>

<sup>4599</sup> New residential aged care facility marks new era for Wamuran, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 12 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-residential-aged-care-facility-marks-new-era-for-wamuran>

<sup>4600</sup> International students ready to fill critical staff shortages in aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/international-students-ready-to-fill-critical-staff-shortages-in-aged-care>

<sup>4601</sup> International students ready to fill critical staff shortages in aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/international-students-ready-to-fill-critical-staff-shortages-in-aged-care>

<sup>4602</sup> Strengthened guidelines to protect aged care residents, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/strengthened-guidelines-to-protect-aged-care-residents>

<sup>4603</sup> Measures to support Senior Australians and those who care for them, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them>

<sup>4604</sup> Measures to support Senior Australians and those who care for them, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them>

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flexible Aged Care Program providers, Multi-Purpose Services and homeless providers.”<sup>4605</sup>

On 22 March 2020, the Department of Health published an information sheet specifically dedicated to informing “older Australians, their family and friends about how to protect older Australians from the spread of coronavirus.”<sup>4606</sup> The periodically updated sheet included instructions on how to get medical services, getting help, and treating suspicious messages about COVID-19. This initiative supports self-care of older Australians in terms of maintaining involvement in their own healthcare and encourages community and intergenerational solidarity between family and friends with regards to preventing the spread of COVID-19.

On 25 March 2020, Minister Colbeck announced that several measures will be postponed for at least six months, including the “Australian National Aged Care Classification (AN-ACC) assessment trial, the 2020 Aged Care Approval Round and the implementation of the home care payment alignment project”<sup>4607</sup> as the government deals with the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4608</sup>

On 29 March 2020, Minister Colbeck announced a AUD1.1 billion funding package for senior Australians and young people, which will help them “stay healthy and connected”<sup>4609</sup> to their community to family, friends, and support services.<sup>4610</sup> It includes AUD10 million towards a Community Visitors Scheme, which aims to prevent social isolation of senior Australians due to visitor restrictions.<sup>4611</sup>

On 31 March 2020, Minister Hunt pledged AUD59.3 million towards funding for the Meals on Wheels initiative and similar meal delivery services for senior Australians, as they are urged to remain home in response to COVID-19.<sup>4612</sup> The funding aims to provide “prepared meals, food staples and essential daily items,”<sup>4613</sup> which will be delivered to seniors.<sup>4614</sup>

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<sup>4605</sup> Measures to support Senior Australians and those who care for them, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/measures-to-support-senior-australians-and-those-who-care-for-them>

<sup>4606</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for older Australians, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 22 March 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-older-australians>

<sup>4607</sup> Aged care activities pause due to COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-activities-pause-due-to-covid-19>

<sup>4608</sup> Aged care activities pause due to COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-activities-pause-due-to-covid-19>

<sup>4609</sup> Support to keep people active and healthy as COVID-19 restrictions continue, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-to-keep-people-active-and-healthy-as-covid-19-restrictions-continue>

<sup>4610</sup> Support to keep people active and healthy as COVID-19 restrictions continue, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-to-keep-people-active-and-healthy-as-covid-19-restrictions-continue>

<sup>4611</sup> Support to keep people active and healthy as COVID-19 restrictions continue, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-to-keep-people-active-and-healthy-as-covid-19-restrictions-continue>

<sup>4612</sup> Meals On Wheels programs reinforced to help senior Australians at home, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/meals-on-wheels-programs-reinforced-to-help-senior-australians-at-home>

<sup>4613</sup> Meals On Wheels programs reinforced to help senior Australians at home, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/meals-on-wheels-programs-reinforced-to-help-senior-australians-at-home>

On 1 April 2020, Minister Hunt announced that the Australian government has invested over AUD80 million in 2020 towards the National Immunization Program, which provides free flu vaccines, including the quadrivalent vaccine Flud Quad<sup>4615</sup> for people who are 65 years of age or older.<sup>4616</sup>

On 2 April 2020, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson detailed the actions taken by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission to protect older people in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4617</sup> Regulatory focuses include management of complaints, site visits and enforcing compliance to standards and requirements while implementing new provisions with compassion and care.<sup>4618</sup>

On 3 April 2020, Minister Colbeck urged aged care workers to get their flu vaccination in order to protect Senior Australians from influenza by the target date of 1 May 2020.<sup>4619</sup>

On 8 April 2020, Minister Colbeck announced that welfare checks in the form of phone calls will be conducted on Senior Australians who have deferred aged care home services in light of the pandemic.<sup>4620</sup> The program aims to ensure that Senior Australians can continue to receive care without having to risk infection from a health worker's visit.

On 9 April 2020, the Department of Health published a fact sheet containing information about "assistance with food and meals for older Australians impacted by COVID-19."<sup>4621</sup> The fact sheet included information about collaboration with grocery suppliers in order to provide priority access to online and telephone shopping services as well as urgent referrals to food and prepared meal providers.<sup>4622</sup>

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<sup>4614</sup> Meals On Wheels programs reinforced to help senior Australians at home, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/meals-on-wheels-programs-reinforced-to-help-senior-australians-at-home>

<sup>4615</sup> Flu vaccination more important than ever during the month of April, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/flu-vaccination-more-important-than-ever-during-the-month-of-april>

<sup>4616</sup> Flu vaccination more important than ever during the month of April, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/flu-vaccination-more-important-than-ever-during-the-month-of-april>

<sup>4617</sup> ACQSC Regulatory Response to COVID-19 Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 02 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/acqsc-regulatory-response-covid-19-statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-aged-care-quality-and-safety-commissioner>

<sup>4618</sup> ACQSC Regulatory Response to COVID-19 Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 02 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/acqsc-regulatory-response-covid-19-statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-aged-care-quality-and-safety-commissioner>

<sup>4619</sup> Aged care workers must get flu vaccination, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 3 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-workers-must-get-flu-vaccination>

<sup>4620</sup> Welfare checks to ensure the wellbeing of Senior Australians, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/welfare-checks-to-ensure-the-wellbeing-of-senior-australians>

<sup>4621</sup> FACT SHEET: ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD AND MEALS FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS IMPACTED BY COVID-19, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/assistance-with-food-and-meals-for-older-australians-impacted-by-covid-19.pdf>

<sup>4622</sup> FACT SHEET: ASSISTANCE WITH FOOD AND MEALS FOR OLDER AUSTRALIANS IMPACTED BY COVID-19, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 09 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/2020/04/assistance-with-food-and-meals-for-older-australians-impacted-by-covid-19.pdf>

On 13 April 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the launching of a joint strategy by the federal government aimed at “strengthening the workforce to ensure staffing gaps are filled.”<sup>4623</sup> Emergency contingency measures include new emergency response teams, remote locums to support aged care providers and access to a surge workforce to ensure continuity of aged care to those in need.

On 16 April 2020, the Australia Institute of Health and Welfare produced a report titled “Patterns of health service use by people with dementia in their last year of life.”<sup>4624</sup> The study is one of the first of its kind and examined health service use in New South Wales and Victoria in order to provide deeper insights into dementia in Australia and its impact on Australia’s health and aged care system.

On 22 April 2020, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee published a statement containing advice for residential aged care facilities about minimising the impact of COVID-19 on residents.<sup>4625</sup> The article included recommendations about hygiene measures, managing illness in visitors and staff and restriction of entry into aged care facilities. The statement was updated on 19 June 2020 to include more information about external excursions.<sup>4626</sup>

On 1 May 2020, Minister Colbeck announced a new COVID-19 specific support package totalling AUD205 million across several targeted measures. The funds were intended to “[ensure that] aged care providers can offer reinforced levels of safety and care” through additional staffing, supporting visitations and PPE.<sup>4627</sup> Payments were made on a per-resident basis and differ for homes in different areas.<sup>4628</sup>

On 12 May 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the implementation of the Aged Care Visitor Access Code that “sets out a nationally consistent, principles-based approach to maintaining residents’ visitation and communication.”<sup>4629</sup> The guidelines were intended to “[strike] the important balance of

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<sup>4623</sup> Contingency measures to ensure continuity of aged care during COVID-19, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/contingency-measures-to-ensure-continuity-of-aged-care-during-covid-19>

<sup>4624</sup> Understanding how people with dementia use health services in their last year of life, Australian Government Australia Institute of Health and Welfare (Canberra) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.aihw.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/2020/april/understanding-how-people-with-dementia-use-health>

<sup>4625</sup> Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) advice on residential aged care facilities, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 22 April 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-advice-on-residential-aged-care-facilities>

<sup>4626</sup> Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) update to residential aged care facilities about minimising the impact of COVID-19, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 19 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc-update-to-residential-aged-care-facilities-about-minimising-the-impact-of-covid-19>

<sup>4627</sup> New COVID-19 payment to keep senior Australians in residential aged care safe, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-covid-19-payment-to-keep-senior-australians-in-residential-aged-care-safe>

<sup>4628</sup> New COVID-19 payment to keep senior Australians in residential aged care safe, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 1 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-covid-19-payment-to-keep-senior-australians-in-residential-aged-care-safe>

<sup>4629</sup> Visitor Access Code offers clarity for residential aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/visitor-access-code-offers-clarity-for-residential-aged-care>

ensuring the health and wellbeing of aged care residents and retaining important social connections during the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>4630</sup>

On 14 May 2020, Minister Colbeck announced an amendment of the Aged Care Act that “[gives] aged care residents the option of taking additional leave during an emergency” in view of COVID-19.<sup>4631</sup> The initiative is intended to allow permanent aged care residents and their families to make decisions about their safety without worrying about financial risk.<sup>4632</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Minister Colbeck announced an investment of AUD57.2 by the Australian government into improving palliative care in aged care facilities across Australia.<sup>4633</sup> The funds were intended to “reduce the physical and emotional distress for individuals who require palliative care and their families” while recognising its importance in supporting “a person’s physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs.”<sup>4634</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the Australian government pledged AUD6 million towards a communications package, which aims to prevent isolation and loneliness of older Australians.<sup>4635</sup> About AUD5 million will go towards “[expanding] Friend Line, a national telephone support service for older Australians, to answer 60,000 calls a year”<sup>4636</sup> AUD1 million in grants will go towards “215 local community organization to provide at-risk seniors with digital devices such as mobile phones and laptops.”<sup>4637</sup> This initiative recognizes the importance of staying socially connected and aims to alleviate social isolation and loneliness of seniors.

On 29 May 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the upcoming registration scheme for aged care workers in order to “[ensure] all staff are suitable to work with senior and vulnerable Australians.”<sup>4638</sup> The objective of the process is to ensure that all workers have suitable “skills and character.”<sup>4639</sup>

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<sup>4630</sup> Visitor Access Code offers clarity for residential aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/visitor-access-code-offers-clarity-for-residential-aged-care>

<sup>4631</sup> New emergency leave provision for aged care residents, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-emergency-leave-provision-for-aged-care-residents>

<sup>4632</sup> New emergency leave provision for aged care residents, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 14 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/new-emergency-leave-provision-for-aged-care-residents>

<sup>4633</sup> Government invests \$57 million to improve palliative care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/government-invests-57-million-to-improve-palliative-care>

<sup>4634</sup> Government invests \$57 million to improve palliative care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 25 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/government-invests-57-million-to-improve-palliative-care>

<sup>4635</sup> Supporting isolated senior Australians to stay connected, Ministers of the Department of Social Services (Canberra) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5846>

<sup>4636</sup> Supporting isolated senior Australians to stay connected, Ministers of the Department of Social Services (Canberra) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5846>

<sup>4637</sup> Supporting isolated senior Australians to stay connected, Ministers of the Department of Social Services (Canberra) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://ministers.dss.gov.au/media-releases/5846>

<sup>4638</sup> Register for aged care workers a step closer, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/register-for-aged-care-workers-a-step-closer>

<sup>4639</sup> Register for aged care workers a step closer, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 29 May 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/register-for-aged-care-workers-a-step-closer>



On 17 June 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the upcoming “free sign language interpreting service will soon be available for senior Australians who are deaf, deafblind or hard of hearing.”<sup>4640</sup> Provided through Auslan Connections, the service is intended to ensure that all senior Australians can “participate in the assessment, planning and review of their care.”<sup>4641</sup> There were further plans to translate key aged care documents and information into formats suitable for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.<sup>4642</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Minister Colbeck published a media release urging senior Australians to “remain vigilant” while returning to work and recreation activity.<sup>4643</sup> The media release included guidelines and instructions for remaining safe during the opening process such as social distancing, practising good hygiene and downloading the COVIDSafe app.<sup>4644</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the deployment of five new COVID-19 testing teams to residential aged care services located across metropolitan Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire.<sup>4645</sup> The action is designed to give “health authorities the chance to identify people with COVID-19 who are living and working in aged care, even before they appear unwell.”<sup>4646</sup>

On 17 July 2020, Minister Hunt announced the release of 1 million face masks from the National Medical Stockpile for use among aged care workers following the mandating of masks across Victoria.<sup>4647</sup> This requirement applies to both residential care and home support care workers and is aimed at providing extra confidence that senior citizens are protected.<sup>4648</sup>

On 19 July 2020, the Australian and Victorian governments, in collaboration with representatives from the aged care sector jointly announced “additional measures to ensure aged care providers are

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<sup>4640</sup> National sign language interpreting service for aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/national-sign-language-interpreting-service-for-aged-care>

<sup>4641</sup> National sign language interpreting service for aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/national-sign-language-interpreting-service-for-aged-care>

<sup>4642</sup> National sign language interpreting service for aged care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 17 June 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/national-sign-language-interpreting-service-for-aged-care>

<sup>4643</sup> COVID-19: Senior Australians urged to stay vigilant, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/covid-19-senior-australians-urged-to-stay-vigilant>

<sup>4644</sup> COVID-19: Senior Australians urged to stay vigilant, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 10 July 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/covid-19-senior-australians-urged-to-stay-vigilant>

<sup>4645</sup> Additional testing support for Victorian residential aged care services, Minister Department of Health (Canberra) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/additional-testing-support-for-victorian-residential-aged-care-services>

<sup>4646</sup> Additional testing support for Victorian residential aged care services, Minister Department of Health (Canberra) 16 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/additional-testing-support-for-victorian-residential-aged-care-services>

<sup>4647</sup> Two million more face masks for Victorian aged care and disability workers, Minister Department of Health (Canberra) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/two-million-more-face-masks-for-victorian-aged-care-and-disability-workers>

<sup>4648</sup> Two million more face masks for Victorian aged care and disability workers, Minister Department of Health (Canberra) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/two-million-more-face-masks-for-victorian-aged-care-and-disability-workers>

equipped to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and can continue providing quality care.”<sup>4649</sup> These include measures such as workforce funding support, the provision of financial support to Victorian workers in self-isolation or quarantine, programs to reduce workforce sharing across sites and increased infection control training.<sup>4650</sup>

On 25 July 2020, Minister Colbeck announced the establishment of a Victorian Aged Care Response Centre to “co-ordinate and expand resources to tackle the challenge of COVID-19 in age care services.”<sup>4651</sup> This action is to bring together and coordinate the efforts of Commonwealth and State government agencies to manage the impact of the pandemic.<sup>4652</sup> The Response Centre will be staffed with members from Department of Health, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission, Department of Health and Human Services, Emergency Management Australia, Emergency Management Victoria and Defence and have stakeholder liaison arrangements with organisations such as Older Persons Advisory Network, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation and the Australian Medical Association.<sup>4653</sup>

On 28 July 2020, Minister for Health Greg Hunt announced the strengthening of protection from COVID-19 for aged care staff and residents through the supply of “500,000 reusable face shields to all residential aged care services across Victoria for use by staff” and the “release a further five million face masks from the National Medical Stockpile for Victorian aged care providers.”<sup>4654</sup>

On 18 August 2020, Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner Janet Anderson announced the taking of “regulatory action in relation to a number of approved providers of residential aged care services experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak” through the “Notice of Requirement to Agree to Certain Matters.”<sup>4655</sup> The notice contains terms determined by the Commission that the approved provider must immediately implement and notify residents and families.<sup>4656</sup> Regulatory actions also

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<sup>4649</sup> Support for aged care residents and aged care workers across Victoria, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 19 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-for-aged-care-residents-and-aged-care-workers-across-victoria>

<sup>4650</sup> Support for aged care residents and aged care workers across Victoria, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 19 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/support-for-aged-care-residents-and-aged-care-workers-across-victoria>

<sup>4651</sup> Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/victorian-aged-care-response-centre>

<sup>4652</sup> Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/victorian-aged-care-response-centre>

<sup>4653</sup> Victorian Aged Care Response Centre, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 25 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/victorian-aged-care-response-centre>

<sup>4654</sup> Greater virus protection for aged care workers, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/greater-virus-protection-for-aged-care-workers>

<sup>4655</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Regulatory actions to support Victorian aged care homes during COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-regulatory-actions-support-victorian-aged-care-homes-during-covid-19>

<sup>4656</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Regulatory actions to support Victorian aged care homes during COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-regulatory-actions-support-victorian-aged-care-homes-during-covid-19>

include temporary staff deployment to aged care homes to “provide leadership or clinical support for the operation of the service.”<sup>4657</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the Australian government announced more support towards Australia’s aged care sector with an additional AUD171.5 million in funding “to boost a new COVID-19 response plan agreed by all states and territories at the National Cabinet.”<sup>4658</sup> This initiative aims to increase the aged care workforce, support more quality checks on aged care providers and increase grief and trauma support services for residents and their families.<sup>4659</sup>

On 31 August 2020, Minister Greg announced the provision of an additional AUD563.3 million in support of the aged care sector’s response to COVID-19 to “fund and support enhanced infection control capability, including through an on-site clinical lead.”<sup>4660</sup> Providers will receive “around [AUD975] per resident in major metropolitan areas and around [AUD1,435] per resident in all other areas” to be provided through Services Australia by early October.<sup>4661</sup>

On 1 September 2020, Aged Anderson released a statement about significant increases in regulatory activities carried out by the commission relating to aged care in the context of COVID-19.<sup>4662</sup> Specific measures include telephone assessment contacts, self-assessment surveys, unannounced and short-notice visits to aged care services and unannounced spot checks.<sup>4663</sup> These actions are designed to enforce compliance and provide more feedback in real time in order to identify areas of improvement.<sup>4664</sup>

On 23 September 2020, Minister Colbeck pledged AUD13 million toward access to sign language services for senior Australians who are deaf or hard of hearing.<sup>4665</sup> This initiative considers equity and

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<sup>4657</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Regulatory actions to support Victorian aged care homes during COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-regulatory-actions-support-victorian-aged-care-homes-during-covid-19>

<sup>4658</sup> Reinforcement of Australia's aged care sector, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/reinforcement-australias-aged-care-sector>

<sup>4659</sup> Reinforcement of Australia's aged care sector, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 21 August 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/reinforcement-australias-aged-care-sector>

<sup>4660</sup> Additional Funding to Reinforce Australia's Aged Care Sector, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-funding-to-reinforce-australias-aged-care-sector>

<sup>4661</sup> Additional Funding to Reinforce Australia's Aged Care Sector, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-funding-to-reinforce-australias-aged-care-sector>

<sup>4662</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Significant growth in regulatory activities relating to aged care in the context of COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-significant-growth-regulatory-activities-relating-aged-care-context-covid-19>

<sup>4663</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Significant growth in regulatory activities relating to aged care in the context of COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-significant-growth-regulatory-activities-relating-aged-care-context-covid-19>

<sup>4664</sup> Statement from Ms Janet Anderson PSM - Significant growth in regulatory activities relating to aged care in the context of COVID-19, Australian Government Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (Canberra) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. <https://www.agedcarequality.gov.au/news/media-centre/statement-ms-janet-anderson-psm-significant-growth-regulatory-activities-relating-aged-care-context-covid-19>

<sup>4665</sup> Sign language milestone for Senior Australians, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 27 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/sign-language-milestone-for-senior-australians>

is a step towards “[removing] barriers so senior Australians can live healthy, active and socially connected lives.”<sup>4666</sup>

On 30 September 2020, Minister Hunt announced that the Australian government “is extending testing and bolstering supply of PPE in residential aged care facilities across Melbourne and the Mitchell Shire to further suppress COVID-19 infection rates.”<sup>4667</sup> This initiative aims to ensure the safety of residents and staff in aged care facilities and “detect areas of community transmission before outbreaks occur.”<sup>4668</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the Australian government pledged AUD408.5 million in the 2020-21 Budget towards the care and quality of aged care sector.<sup>4669</sup> This funding aims to support initiatives such as training and support for dementia, the implementation of a strategy towards the aged care workforce, support for the Royal Commission, support for older Australians with disabilities, amongst others.<sup>4670</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Australian government awarded Flinders University with a contract of AUD34 million to develop stage one of the new Aged Care Centre for Growth and Translation Research.<sup>4671</sup> The Australian government will continue to fund this initiative through to 30 June 2024.<sup>4672</sup> This initiative is one of the actions from “Australia’s Aged Care Workforce Strategy – A Matter of Care” and aims to improve the aged care practice, aged care workforce, and technology used in aged care.<sup>4673</sup> As well, the centre’s priorities will be based on the findings from the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and lessons learned through the COVID-19 pandemic.”<sup>4674</sup>

Through pledges of funding, consistent and strong support of initiatives supporting the expansion of the accessibility of aged care, promotion of physical activity and social inclusion of older persons,

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<sup>4666</sup> Sign language milestone for Senior Australians, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 27 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/sign-language-milestone-for-senior-australians>

<sup>4667</sup> Additional protection for Victorian aged care services, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-protection-for-victorian-aged-care-services-0>

<sup>4668</sup> Additional protection for Victorian aged care services, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 30 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/additional-protection-for-victorian-aged-care-services-0>

<sup>4669</sup> Budget 2020-21: Record health and aged care investment under Australia’s COVID-19 pandemic plan, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/the-hon-greg-hunt-mp/media/budget-2020-21-record-health-and-aged-care-investment-under-australias-covid-19-pandemic-plan>

<sup>4670</sup> A stronger aged care system with a focus on quality care, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 8 October 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/a-stronger-aged-care-system-with-a-focus-on-quality-care>

<sup>4671</sup> Aged care research centre to draw on world’s best practice, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-research-centre-to-draw-on-worlds-best-practice>

<sup>4672</sup> Aged care research centre to draw on world’s best practice, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-research-centre-to-draw-on-worlds-best-practice>

<sup>4673</sup> Aged care research centre to draw on world’s best practice, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-research-centre-to-draw-on-worlds-best-practice>

<sup>4674</sup> Aged care research centre to draw on world’s best practice, Ministers Department of Health (Canberra) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/ministers/senator-the-hon-richard-colbeck/media/aged-care-research-centre-to-draw-on-worlds-best-practice>

improvements towards the experiences of both caretaker and care receiver, with attention to equity and diversity, Australia has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Daisy Liu*

**Brazil: -1**

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy aging and active aging through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 6 November 2019, the Ministry of Citizenship initiated the Healthy Living program in the Brazil Friendly to the Elderly Strategy.<sup>4675</sup> This initiative aims to reach up to 460 municipalities and promote “physical, cultural, and leisure activities” to the elderly population and improve their quality of life.<sup>4676</sup>

Through its Friendly to the Elderly Strategy, Brazil took action in promoting active ageing as it encourages physical activity and social and cultural inclusion. However, Brazil has not implemented active ageing policies that support income, economic and food security. Moreover, Brazil has not taken action to promote healthy ageing.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Fatima Chohan*

**Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 23 August 2019, Health Canada launched a three-year, micro-grant fund worth CAD300,000 to address the social and psychological aspects of palliative care.<sup>4677</sup> The grant would foster compassionate community-based initiatives that help members of the official language minority communities live in comfort and with dignity as well as provide “support before, during and following the death of a loved one.”<sup>4678</sup>

On 21 January 2020, Minister of Seniors Deb Schulte and the Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal pledged to invest CAD1.5 million to support approximately 100 projects in Manitoba, which

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<sup>4675</sup> Government launches “Healthy Living Program” aimed at the elderly, Portal do Careiro (Careiro) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.portaldocareiro.com.br/governo-lanca-programa-vida-saudavel-voltado-a-pessoas-idosas/>

<sup>4676</sup> Government launches “Healthy Living Program” aimed at the elderly, Portal do Careiro (Careiro) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.portaldocareiro.com.br/governo-lanca-programa-vida-saudavel-voltado-a-pessoas-idosas/>

<sup>4677</sup> Health Canada announces micro grant fund for official language minority communities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/08/health-canada-announces-micro-grant-fund-for-official-language-minority-communities.html>

<sup>4678</sup> Health Canada announces micro grant fund for official language minority communities, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 August 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/08/health-canada-announces-micro-grant-fund-for-official-language-minority-communities.html>

aim to enhance the quality of the life older persons and promote social inclusion.<sup>4679</sup> The “New Horizons for Seniors Program community-based stream” provides the funding for the projects.<sup>4680</sup>

On 31 January 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced an investment of more than CAD4.6 million for various projects across Canada, which aim to improve the lives of those who live with dementia, their families, and their caregivers.<sup>4681</sup>

On 10 February 2020, Minister Schulte announced an investment of more than CAD3.4 million to help increase social inclusion of seniors in Nova Scotia.<sup>4682</sup> The project will be led by the Dalhousie University College of Continuing Education.<sup>4683</sup>

On 14 February 2020, Minister Schulte announced an investment of CAD3 million for a project led by Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging.<sup>4684</sup> The project is based in Waterloo, Ontario, and aims to foster intergenerational partnerships between seniors living with mild to moderate dementia and their caregivers.<sup>4685</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Minister Schulte announced an investment of CAD9.3 million in seniors in British Columbia through the New Horizons for Seniors Program.<sup>4686</sup> CAD4 million of the funding will go

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<sup>4679</sup> Minister Schulte announces 1.5 million for Manitoba seniors including upgrades to Southdale Community Centre, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/01/minister-schulte-announces-15-million-for-manitoba-seniors-including-upgrades-to-southdale-community-centre.html>

<sup>4680</sup> Minister Schulte announces 1.5 million for Manitoba seniors including upgrades to Southdale Community Centre, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/01/minister-schulte-announces-15-million-for-manitoba-seniors-including-upgrades-to-southdale-community-centre.html>

<sup>4681</sup> Government of Canada invests in projects to help Canadians living with Dementia and caregivers, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2020/01/government-of-canada-invests-in-projects-to-help-canadians-living-with-dementia-and-caregivers.html>

<sup>4682</sup> Minister Schulte announces investment in project aiming to connect seniors and youth in Nova Scotia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investment-in-project-aiming-to-connect-seniors-and-youth-in-nova-scotia.html>

<sup>4683</sup> Minister Schulte announces investment in project aiming to connect seniors and youth in Nova Scotia, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investment-in-project-aiming-to-connect-seniors-and-youth-in-nova-scotia.html>

<sup>4684</sup> Minister Schulte announces investment to support older adults living with dementia in the Waterloo region, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investment-to-support-older-adults-living-with-dementia-in-the-waterloo-region.html>

<sup>4685</sup> Minister Schulte announces investment to support older adults living with dementia in the Waterloo region, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 14 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investment-to-support-older-adults-living-with-dementia-in-the-waterloo-region.html>

<sup>4686</sup> Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>

to Progressive Intercultural Community Services for a project which aims to increase social inclusion amongst multicultural seniors.<sup>4687</sup>

On 29 March 2020, the Government of Canada pledged CAD9 million to help Canadian seniors affected by COVID-19 through the New Horizons for Seniors Program at United Way Canada, which will provide essential services, such as delivering groceries, medications, or essential items, or connecting seniors to relevant community supports.<sup>4688</sup>

On 6 April 2020, Minister Schulte announced organizations under the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) can use funding they previously received through the community-based stream to provide essential services for seniors impacted by COVID-19.<sup>4689</sup> Services mentioned are assisting seniors with essential activities and helping seniors stay connected to their community and family virtually.<sup>4690</sup>

On 12 May 2020, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an investment of CAD20 million under the New Horizons for Seniors Program. This investment will go to supporting community-based projects that reduce isolation and improve the quality of life of seniors.<sup>4691</sup>

On 4 June 2020, Prime Minister Trudeau stated that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement “will receive their one-time, tax-free payment during the week of July 6.”<sup>4692</sup> Through this initiative and others, the government is providing about CAD900 more for single seniors and CAD1,500 for senior couples to help seniors with financial security in response to the pandemic.<sup>4693</sup>

Canada has taken actions to promote both healthy and active ageing through initiatives that promote equity and diversity, programs which enhance the living environments for seniors, including the family, their caregivers and the larger community, fostering social inclusion and improving their quality of life.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Shafna Kallil*

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<sup>4687</sup> Minister Schulte announces a \$9.3 million investment in British Columbia seniors through New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 2 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/02/minister-schulte-announces-investments-of-over-9-million-for-seniors-across-british-columbia-at-pics.html>

<sup>4688</sup> Prime Minister announces support for vulnerable Canadians affected by COVID-19, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 29 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/03/29/prime-minister-announces-support-vulnerable-canadians-affected-covid>

<sup>4689</sup> New Horizons for Seniors Program projects can now be used for COVID-19 support, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/new-horizons-for-seniors-program-projects-can-now-be-used-for-covid-19-support.html>

<sup>4690</sup> New Horizons for Seniors Program projects can now be used for COVID-19 support, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 6 April 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2020/04/new-horizons-for-seniors-program-projects-can-now-be-used-for-covid-19-support.html>

<sup>4691</sup> Prime Minister announces additional support for Canadian seniors, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 12 May 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/05/12/prime-minister-announces-additional-support-canadian-senior>

<sup>4692</sup> Canadian seniors to receive special payment in early July, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/06/04/canadian-seniors-receive-special-payment-early-july>

<sup>4693</sup> Canadian seniors to receive special payment in early July, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2020/06/04/canadian-seniors-receive-special-payment-early-july>

## China: +1

China has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 15 July 2019, the State Council of China issued the official guideline regarding the implementation of the Healthy China Initiative.<sup>4694</sup> With an emphasis on disease prevention, chronic disease management and health promotion and education, the new guideline consists of 15 campaigns to directly target health-influencing factors and improve national health awareness.<sup>4695</sup> The State Council also formed a committee, dedicated to the proper promotion, implementation, supervision and assessment of the Healthy China Initiative, which will conduct annual research to monitor the project and propose policy adjustments along the way.<sup>4696</sup>

On 21 August 2019, the State Council announced the scheduled establishment of a long-term elderly care mechanism composed of improved training for elderly care workers, increased social benefits and insurance and increased subsidies for elderly citizens faced with economic difficulties.<sup>4697</sup> The government aims to tackle the extreme deficit of workers in the aged care industry in addition to expanding care services to more effectively meet seniors' physiological, safety and social belonging needs.<sup>4698</sup>

On 27 August 2019, the National Health Commission issued two guidelines to urge medical and nursing services to more effectively evaluate the demands of elderly citizens and strengthen training programs for workers for aged care.<sup>4699</sup> National Health Commission official Jiao Yahui stated that such guidelines were issued to meet the need for quality medical products and aged care services required among debilitated senior citizens.<sup>4700</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the National Health Commission alongside other relevant authorities announced their plan to issue a guideline to further the integration of medical institutions and nursing homes.<sup>4701</sup> The new guideline will differentiate between medical and caregiving costs, however, it is expected to make health insurance reimbursement easier.<sup>4702</sup> The government plans to incentivize the integration process through the provision of benefits and tax breaks for hybrid facilities.<sup>4703</sup>

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<sup>4694</sup> Healthy China Initiative to Transform Industry, China Daily (Beijing) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201907/24/WS5d37b165a310d83056400aa7.html>

<sup>4695</sup> Healthy China Initiative to Transform Industry, China Daily (Beijing) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <http://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201907/24/WS5d37b165a310d83056400aa7.html>

<sup>4696</sup> State Council forms committee for healthcare initiative, The State Council (Beijing) 15 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <http://www.amgen.cn/en/media/amgen-aging.html>

[http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/201907/15/content\\_WS5d3968c1c6d08408f5022868.html](http://english.www.gov.cn/policies/latestreleases/201907/15/content_WS5d3968c1c6d08408f5022868.html)

<sup>4697</sup> Elderly care services to be expanded, The State Council (Beijing) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d648bb7a310cf3e35568083\\_2.html](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d648bb7a310cf3e35568083_2.html)

<sup>4698</sup> Elderly care services to be expanded, The State Council (Beijing) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d648bb7a310cf3e35568083\\_2.html](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d648bb7a310cf3e35568083_2.html)

<sup>4699</sup> China promotes nursing services for debilitated senior citizens, China Daily (Beijing) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d6539e1a310cf3e355682f0.html>

<sup>4700</sup> China promotes nursing services for debilitated senior citizens, China Daily (Beijing) 27 August 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201908/27/WS5d6539e1a310cf3e355682f0.html>

<sup>4701</sup> Efforts to improve senior care renewed, National health Commission of the PRC (Beijing) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c\\_75697.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c_75697.htm)

<sup>4702</sup> Efforts to improve senior care renewed, National health Commission of the PRC (Beijing) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c\\_75697.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c_75697.htm)

<sup>4703</sup> Efforts to improve senior care renewed, National health Commission of the PRC (Beijing) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c\\_75697.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2019-09/19/c_75697.htm)



On 26 September 2019, Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei announced that health authorities across China will further concentrate their efforts in improving the quality and accessibility of rural healthcare services.<sup>4704</sup> By the end of 2020, another 1,000 county level hospitals will have been upgraded to tertiary hospitals, eliminating the need for patients in these counties with serious illnesses to travel long distances for treatment.<sup>4705</sup> China's investment in the development of healthcare services in rural areas is essential to a more even distribution in medical resources and thus a more equitable and accessible healthcare system.<sup>4706</sup>

On 9 October 2019, the National Health Commission stated that China has taken action in decreasing patients' expenses in treating high blood pressure and diabetes.<sup>4707</sup> Patients suffering from these two chronic illnesses will have 50 per cent of their spending on medicine reimbursed.<sup>4708</sup> These measures were also made with the intention to improve the health of the elderly population, as over 180 million elderly citizens in China suffer from such chronic illnesses.<sup>4709</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the National Health Commission announced the expansion of a pilot terminal care program into an additional 71 cities and municipal districts with the goal of advancing healthcare for the elderly.<sup>4710</sup> More specifically, this program aims to ensure that senior citizens who are dying and/or suffering from terminal illnesses will have their "physical and mental needs better taken care of so that they can pass away with comfort and dignity."<sup>4711</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the National Health Commission announced that China will ramp up its efforts in building more accessible and elderly-friendly medical facilities.<sup>4712</sup> It encourages all medical institutions to implement changes to provide seniors with more convenient and tailored medical services.<sup>4713</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the National Health Commission officially launched an information system for the registration of the treatment of rare diseases in an effort to improve the quality of their diagnoses and treatment.<sup>4714</sup> Over 300 hospitals will come together in a collaborative network for rare diseases and will

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<sup>4704</sup> Chinese health authorities to prioritize rural development, China Daily (Beijing) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201909/26/WS5d8cb75aa310cf3e3556db2d.html>

<sup>4705</sup> Chinese health authorities to prioritize rural development, China Daily (Beijing) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201909/26/WS5d8cb75aa310cf3e3556db2d.html>

<sup>4706</sup> Chinese health authorities to prioritize rural development, China Daily (Beijing) 29 September 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201909/26/WS5d8cb75aa310cf3e3556db2d.html>

<sup>4707</sup> China to ease burden of patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c\\_138457397.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c_138457397.htm)

<sup>4708</sup> China to ease burden of patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c\\_138457397.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c_138457397.htm)

<sup>4709</sup> China to ease burden of patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c\\_138457397.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/09/c_138457397.htm)

<sup>4710</sup> China expands pilot terminal care program, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c\\_138464379.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c_138464379.htm)

<sup>4711</sup> China expands pilot terminal care program, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c\\_138464379.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c_138464379.htm)

<sup>4712</sup> China to make medical institutions elderly-friendly, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c\\_138464358.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c_138464358.htm)

<sup>4713</sup> China to make medical institutions elderly-friendly, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c\\_138464358.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/11/c_138464358.htm)

<sup>4714</sup> China to register treatment of rare diseases, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/18/c\\_138483128.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/18/c_138483128.htm)

be required to register all information on patients with rare diseases effective 1 November 2019 and to complete the registration of all patients treated with rare diseases since 2015 by the end of 2019.<sup>4715</sup>

On 8 November 2019, Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei met with Italy's Minister of Health Roberto Speranza to sign the Implementation Programme of the Plan of Action for the years 2019 to 2021, which aims to establish healthcare cooperation between Italy and China to sectors such as oncology, cardiology and primary care.<sup>4716</sup>

On 21 November 2019, the Communist Party of China and the State Council announced that the basic institutional framework for a proactive response to population ageing will be established by 2022.<sup>4717</sup> The plan aims to combat population ageing through five main aspects: establishing a more sustainable and equitable social security system, establishing a high-quality and comprehensive health service system, promoting the “development of assistive technologies for senior citizens,”<sup>4718</sup> “[improving] the legal system to protect the lawful rights and interests of senior citizens,”<sup>4719</sup> and “improving the effective supply of labour in an ageing society”<sup>4720</sup> through the implementation of a “lifelong learning system for senior citizens.”<sup>4721</sup>

On 22 November 2019, China National Health Development Research Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Amgen to launch the “Program of Building of High-Quality and Efficient Health Service System and Empirical Study in the Context of Ageing,” a three year program, which aims to improve the health outcomes and quality of care through the establishment of “an integrated, high-quality ageing service system.”<sup>4722</sup>

China has taken multiple policy actions to promote healthy and active, with attention to equity and diversity, through improving quality of care for older persons, enhancing healthcare frameworks, intervening in age-related diseases, and creating age-friendly environments that address the functional ability of debilitated old people. China has also addressed political inclusion of older people through a plan, which will be established in 2022, that aims to improve legal rights of senior citizens.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

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<sup>4715</sup> China to register treatment of rare diseases, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/18/c\\_138483128.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-10/18/c_138483128.htm)

<sup>4716</sup> Italia-Cina, incontro tra i ministri della Salute Roberto Speranza e Ma Xiaowei, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3956](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3956)

<sup>4717</sup> China unveils plan for tackling population aging, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c\\_138573146.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c_138573146.htm)

<sup>4718</sup> China unveils plan for tackling population aging, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c\\_138573146.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c_138573146.htm)

<sup>4719</sup> China unveils plan for tackling population aging, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c\\_138573146.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c_138573146.htm)

<sup>4720</sup> China unveils plan for tackling population aging, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c\\_138573146.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c_138573146.htm)

<sup>4721</sup> China unveils plan for tackling population aging, Xinhua News Agency (Beijing) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c\\_138573146.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/21/c_138573146.htm)

<sup>4722</sup> Program of Building of High-Quality and Efficient Health Service System and Empirical Study in the Context of Aging Kicked off in Beijing, Amgen (Beijing) 22 November 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2019. <http://www.amgen.cn/en/media/amgen-aging.html>

**France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active aging through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 3 July 2019, Minister of Social Affairs and Health Agnès Buzyn made a speech to parliamentarians and industry experts on reforms being taken towards providing the elderly with a sense of autonomy.<sup>4723</sup> Minister Buzyn announced various plans moving forward, including the revitalization of home support services, calling for versatility, flexibility and more coordination to improve the lives of the elderly as well as reduce their loss of autonomy.<sup>4724</sup>

On 20 December 2019, Minister Buzyn met with the monitoring group of the Emergency Refoundation Pact, dedicated to revitalizing the French health system.<sup>4725</sup> At the meeting, several new measures were discussed and undertaken, including that all establishments with an emergency service must implement direct admission procedures for elderly patients, allowing them to bypass emergency room services, by the end of 2020.<sup>4726</sup>

On 16 January 2020, Minister Buzyn announced several strategies to prevent the elders' loss of autonomy and aid healthy ageing, including two projects for 2020 and 2021.<sup>4727</sup> The first project aims to reduce the number of emergency visits for 'dependent elderly people' to zero within five years.<sup>4728</sup> The second project aims to address all components of healthy ageing, with a focus on increasing accesses to glasses and hearing aids for the elderly.<sup>4729</sup>

On 14 March 2020, in its advisory function to the Minister of Health and Solidarity, the Haute Conseil de la Santé Publique (HCSP) published recommendations to protect citizens considered to be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19, including individuals aged 70 or older.<sup>4730</sup> Among the measures, the HCSP recommended the implementation of social distancing, protective procedures for caregivers in

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<sup>4723</sup> Discours de Madame Agnès BUZYN — Grand âge et autonomie, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-de-madame-agnes-buzyn-grand-age-et-autonomie>

<sup>4724</sup> Discours de Madame Agnès BUZYN — Grand âge et autonomie, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-de-madame-agnes-buzyn-grand-age-et-autonomie>

<sup>4725</sup> Pacte de refondation des urgences — 20 décembre 2019, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/pacte-de-refondation-des-urgences-20-decembre-2019>

<sup>4726</sup> Pacte de refondation des urgences — 20 décembre 2019, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/pacte-de-refondation-des-urgences-20-decembre-2019>

<sup>4727</sup> Discours d'Agnès Buzyn : Stratégie de prévention de la perte d'autonomie — 16 janvier 2020, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-agnes-buzyn-strategie-de-prevention-de-la-perte-d-autonomie-16>

<sup>4728</sup> Discours d'Agnès Buzyn : Stratégie de prévention de la perte d'autonomie — 16 janvier 2020, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-agnes-buzyn-strategie-de-prevention-de-la-perte-d-autonomie-16>

<sup>4729</sup> Discours d'Agnès Buzyn : Stratégie de prévention de la perte d'autonomie — 16 janvier 2020, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-agnes-buzyn-strategie-de-prevention-de-la-perte-d-autonomie-16>

<sup>4730</sup> Ref: The President, High Council of Public Health (Paris), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. [https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/new\\_hcsp-sars-cov-2\\_patients\\_fragiles\\_v3-2.pdf](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/new_hcsp-sars-cov-2_patients_fragiles_v3-2.pdf)

Établissements d'hébergement pour personnes âgées dépendantes (EHPADs) and enhanced training to teach those at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 how to protect themselves from infection.<sup>4731</sup>

On 21 March 2020, Minister of Health and Solidarity Olivier Véran declared that government aid would prioritize the protection of elderly caregivers and care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4732</sup> For instance, in response to a request from EHPAD officials, Minister Véran guaranteed the provision of 500,000 surgical masks per day to EHPADs across France.<sup>4733</sup> The Minister added that the measures to protect caregivers were imposed to preserve hospital capacity and reduce COVID-19 deaths among the elderly population.<sup>4734</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity published a series of online instructions, references and guidelines aimed at supporting the elderly and the disabled during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4735</sup> The resources included links to mutual aid groups, information for directors of EHPADs, recommendations for EHPADs, a kit for “neighbors in solidarity with coronavirus,” an elderly care strategy and advice for family caregivers.<sup>4736</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Ministry of Solidary and Health authorized remote health consultations via telephone due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4737</sup> The ministry declared that the telephone consultations would mainly help patients without to healthcare facilities or video technology, particularly individuals aged 70 and older and those with long-term illnesses.<sup>4738</sup>

On 19 April 2020, Minister Véran announced the details of the deconfinement plan during a joint press conference with Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, with a specific lifting of the ban on family

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<sup>4731</sup> Ref: The President, High Council of Public Health (Paris), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020.

[https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/new\\_hcsp-sars-cov-2\\_patients\\_fragiles\\_v3-2.pdf](https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/new_hcsp-sars-cov-2_patients_fragiles_v3-2.pdf)

<sup>4732</sup> Speech by Olivier Véran, Press Conference of 21 March 2020, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 21 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-olivier-veran-conference-de-presse-du-21-mars-2020>

<sup>4733</sup> Speech by Olivier Véran, Press Conference of 21 March 2020, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 21 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-olivier-veran-conference-de-presse-du-21-mars-2020>

<sup>4734</sup> Speech by Olivier Véran, Press Conference of 21 March 2020, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 21 March 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-olivier-veran-conference-de-presse-du-21-mars-2020>

<sup>4735</sup> Accompanying the elderly and the disabled, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 30 March 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/maladies/maladies-infectieuses/coronavirus/professionnels-du-social-et-medico-social/article/accompagnement-des-personnes-agees-et-des-personnes-handicapees>

<sup>4736</sup> Accompanying the elderly and the disabled, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 30 March 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/soins-et-maladies/maladies/maladies-infectieuses/coronavirus/professionnels-du-social-et-medico-social/article/accompagnement-des-personnes-agees-et-des-personnes-handicapees>

<sup>4737</sup> Telephone consultation by telephone, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 4 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/teleconsultation-par-telephone>

<sup>4738</sup> Telephone consultation by telephone, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 4 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/teleconsultation-par-telephone>

visits to EHPADs from 20 April 2020.<sup>4739</sup> The government suspended visits to EHPADs on 11 March 2020 in order to contain the virus.<sup>4740</sup>

On 5 May 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity published a notice that highlighted the work of the 3977, a national hotline dedicated to helping elderly and disabled adults who are victims of abuse.<sup>4741</sup> The notice underscored the importance of increased vigilance in response to the heightened risks of “multiple forms of elderly abuse” during the COVID-19 pandemic and referred website visitors to 3977 campaign’s advertising and media materials.<sup>4742</sup>

On 6 May 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity announced efforts to strengthen the fight against elderly isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4743</sup> The measures included a national toll-free number called “Information coronavirus” to answer questions and refer isolated and vulnerable people to the “Red Cross at Home” service, which offers listening and psychological support and a solidarity concierge service allowing the elderly to order essential items, including food, hygiene products and medicines.<sup>4744</sup> The measures also referenced the creation of a portal on the ministry’s website dedicated to identifying and highlighting initiatives and tools available to the elderly to help combat isolation.<sup>4745</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the Pour les personnes âgées website sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidary to support the elderly announced a new program to improve the lives of the elderly at home care through the financing of a new bathroom.<sup>4746</sup> Individuals aged 70 and older, as well as retirees in a situation of loss of autonomy, are eligible for individual grants up to EUR5000 for the supply and installation of a walk-in shower with non-slip floor, a sink suitable for people with reduced mobility, a raised toilet bowl and support bar as well as other renovations.<sup>4747</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the Pour les personnes âgées website sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidary to support the elderly announced that employees and retirees across France raised EUR2.9 billion on National Solidarity Day for the benefit of the elderly and people with

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<sup>4739</sup> Coronavirus: in the Ehpads or at home, the confinement of “allied” elderly people, Le Monde (Paris), 20 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/04/20/coronavirus-dans-les-ehpad-ou-a-domicile-le-confinement-des-personnes-agees-allege\\_6037161\\_3224.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/04/20/coronavirus-dans-les-ehpad-ou-a-domicile-le-confinement-des-personnes-agees-allege_6037161_3224.html)

<sup>4740</sup> Coronavirus: in the Ehpads or at home, the confinement of “allied” elderly people, Le Monde (Paris), 20 April 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/04/20/coronavirus-dans-les-ehpad-ou-a-domicile-le-confinement-des-personnes-agees-allege\\_6037161\\_3224.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/04/20/coronavirus-dans-les-ehpad-ou-a-domicile-le-confinement-des-personnes-agees-allege_6037161_3224.html)

<sup>4741</sup> The 3977, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 5 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/personnes-agees/maltraitance-des-personnes-vulnerables/article/le-3977>

<sup>4742</sup> The 3977, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 5 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/affaires-sociales/personnes-agees/maltraitance-des-personnes-vulnerables/article/le-3977>

<sup>4743</sup> The Ministry of Health and Solidarity strengthens the fight against isolation, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 6 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-renforce-la-lutte-contre-l>

<sup>4744</sup> The Ministry of Health and Solidarity strengthens the fight against isolation, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 6 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-renforce-la-lutte-contre-l>

<sup>4745</sup> The Ministry of Health and Solidarity strengthens the fight against isolation, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 6 May 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/le-ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-renforce-la-lutte-contre-l>

<sup>4746</sup> Bathroom design: a new help. National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 27 May 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020 <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/amenagement-de-la-salle-de-bain-une-nouvelle-aide>

<sup>4747</sup> Bathroom design: a new help. National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 27 May 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020 <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/amenagement-de-la-salle-de-bain-une-nouvelle-aide>

disabilities.<sup>4748</sup> EUR2 billion out of the EUR2.9 billion will finance programs that directly support the elderly, including the operation and modernization of medico-social establishments and services, a contribution to the financing of a personalized autonomy allowance and actions to prevent loss of autonomy (e.g. group workshops on balance, sleep or memory, awareness of fall prevention and help in acquiring suitable equipment).<sup>4749</sup>

On 15 June 2020, Minister Véran stated that “at least a billion euros” would be added to the fall 2021 Social Security budget.<sup>4750</sup> The goal is to finance and alleviate the loss of autonomy for the elderly and disabled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4751</sup>

On 28 May 2020 Prime Minister Philippe specified the conditions for the second phase of COVID-19 deconfinement, effective 5 June 2020.<sup>4752</sup> In line with national developments, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity relaxed its recommendations relating to visits to EHPADs.<sup>4753</sup> The Ministry’s press release recognized the importance of people seeing their loved ones and encouraged EHPAD management to consider the input of individual EHPAD social councils in loosening the restrictions.<sup>4754</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity released a press statement mandating EHPADs that no longer report possible cases or confirmed cases of COVID-19 to establish, by 22 June 2020, plans for a “gradual return to ‘normal’,” while consulting with care providers and doctors.<sup>4755</sup> The announcement called on EHPADs to ensure “as a priority, as quickly as possible, the resumption of visits by relatives without an appointment, as well as, in a progressive manner: the resumption of individual and group outings and social life within the establishment; the end of

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<sup>4748</sup> Solidarity Day 2020: what will the funds raised be used for? National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 28 May 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020 <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/journee-de-solidarite-2020-a-quoi-serviront-les-fonds-recoltes>

<sup>4749</sup> Solidarity Day 2020: what will the funds raised be used for? National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 28 May 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020 <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/journee-de-solidarite-2020-a-quoi-serviront-les-fonds-recoltes>

<sup>4750</sup> Social Security: Olivier Véran promises an additional billion euros to finance dependency, Elle (Paris), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.elle.fr/Societe/News/Securite-Sociale-Olivier-Veran-promet-un-milliard-d-euros-supplementaire-pour-financer-la-dependance-3867943>

<sup>4751</sup> Social Security: Olivier Véran promises an additional billion euros to finance dependency, Elle (Paris), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://www.elle.fr/Societe/News/Securite-Sociale-Olivier-Veran-promet-un-milliard-d-euros-supplementaire-pour-financer-la-dependance-3867943>

<sup>4752</sup> Press release | Further relaxation of visiting conditions in establishments housing the elderly, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 1 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/communique-assouplissement-supplementaire-des-conditions-de-visite-dans-les>

<sup>4753</sup> Press release | Further relaxation of visiting conditions in establishments housing the elderly, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 1 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/communique-assouplissement-supplementaire-des-conditions-de-visite-dans-les>

<sup>4754</sup> Press release | Further relaxation of visiting conditions in establishments housing the elderly, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 1 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/communique-assouplissement-supplementaire-des-conditions-de-visite-dans-les>

<sup>4755</sup> Next phase of deconfinement in EHPAD and USLD, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/communique-de-presse-ehpad-16-juin-2020>

confinement in a room; the resumption of all paramedical interventions; and the resumption of admissions to permanent accommodation and day care.<sup>4756</sup>

On 16 July 2020, Jérôme Guedj, former president of the General Council of Essonne, presented to Minister Véran and Minister for Autonomy Brigitte Bourguignon the concluding report of the Mission on Improving the Isolation of the Elderly.<sup>4757</sup> The Mission comprised of health experts, representatives from the elderly community, EHPAD federations and associations, local authorities, associations intervening in the field of solidarity and the fight against isolation.<sup>4758</sup> The press release noted that the Mission's findings offer several avenues for structuring a sustainable policy to combat elderly isolation.<sup>4759</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Pour les personnes âgées website sponsored by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidary to support the elderly published a series of new digital resources to assist the elderly population during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4760</sup> The digital tools referenced by the Ministry focus on maintaining social ties and extending access to healthcare services through teleconsultations.<sup>4761</sup>

On 21 July 2020, Minister Véran pledged EUR2.1 billion to invest in medico-social establishments, including EHPADs.<sup>4762</sup> EHPADs will receive the funds to modernize equipment, renovate facilities and accommodate residents in more comfortable, more accessible and more energy-efficient conditions.<sup>4763</sup>

On 29 July 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity began the distribution of 50 million individual protective masks to the mass public.<sup>4764</sup> The ministry announced that it would work with Le Poste to

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<sup>4756</sup> Next phase of deconfinement in EHPAD and USLD, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/communiqué-de-presse-ehpad-16-juin-2020>

<sup>4757</sup> Mission on the isolation of the elderly during Covid-19, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 16 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/mission-sur-l-isolement-des-personnes-agees-en-periode-de-covid-19>

<sup>4758</sup> Mission on the isolation of the elderly during Covid-19, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 16 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/mission-sur-l-isolement-des-personnes-agees-en-periode-de-covid-19>

<sup>4759</sup> Mission on the isolation of the elderly during Covid-19, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 16 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/mission-sur-l-isolement-des-personnes-agees-en-periode-de-covid-19>

<sup>4760</sup> Covid-19: digital tools referenced by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity, National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/covid-19-des-outils-numeriques-references-par-le-ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante>

<sup>4761</sup> Covid-19: digital tools referenced by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity, National information portal for the elderly and their families (Paris), 20 July 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.pour-les-personnes-agees.gouv.fr/actualites/covid-19-des-outils-numeriques-references-par-le-ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante>

<sup>4762</sup> Speech by Olivier Véran - Conclusions of the Ségur de la Santé, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 21 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-olivier-veran-conference-de-presse-du-21-mars-2020>

<sup>4763</sup> Speech by Olivier Véran - Conclusions of the Ségur de la Santé, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 21 July 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/discours/article/discours-d-olivier-veran-conference-de-presse-du-21-mars-2020>

<sup>4764</sup> Mass distribution of protective masks to precarious populations by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity with the support of La Poste, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 29 July 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/distribution-massive-de-masques-publics-precaires-la-poste>

prioritize distributing the protective masks, which are free of charge, to caregivers, precarious populations and the elderly.<sup>4765</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity activated the “Heat Wave” information telephone platform after Météo France announced a long-lasting heatwave across France. The Ministry of Health and Solidarity’s press release called for “solidarity with the most vulnerable people, in particular the elderly, disabled or isolated. Particular vigilance must be brought to people over 65, who are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and to high temperatures.”<sup>4766</sup>

On 7 August 2020, the French government passed into law two bills relating to social security and autonomy, referred to as “the organic law and the ordinary law.”<sup>4767</sup> The laws enabled a debt recovery of EUR136 billion from the social security amortization fund and confirmed the creation of a “5th branch of social security”, devoted specifically to autonomy and aging, to be managed by the National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy.<sup>4768</sup>

On 7 September 2020, the Ministry of Health and Solidarity approved EUR1.2 million for 28 approved associations of health users across France.<sup>4769</sup> The funds focus on the “fight against social and territorial inequalities in health, in particular on: adapting information and modes of action to audiences who are more generally distant from it (disabled people, precarious people, foreigners, etc.) for universal accessibility to information and rights, throughout the health journey; the promotion and defense of the rights of home users as part of the ambulatory shift; and the egalitarian development of digital health services so that they benefit everyone.”<sup>4770</sup>

On 14 September 2020, Inspector General of Finance Laurent Vachey submitted the report on the creation of the “Autonomy” branch of social security to the ministers responsible for Public

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<sup>4765</sup> Mass distribution of protective masks to precarious populations by the Ministry of Health and Solidarity with the support of La Poste, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 29 July 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/distribution-massive-de-masques-publics-precaires-la-poste>

<sup>4766</sup> Heatwave episode affecting a large part of the country: special attention must be paid to vulnerable people in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, Ministry of Health and Solidarity (Paris), 6 August 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/episode-de-canicule-affectant-une-grande-partie-du-pays-une-attention>

<sup>4767</sup> Organic law and law of August 7, 2020 relating to social debt and autonomy, Vie Publique (Paris), 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/274394-lois-7-aout-2020-dette-sociale-et-autonomie-5e-risque-dependance>

<sup>4768</sup> Organic law and law of August 7, 2020 relating to social debt and autonomy, Vie Publique (Paris), 22 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/274394-lois-7-aout-2020-dette-sociale-et-autonomie-5e-risque-dependance>

<sup>4769</sup> Support from the Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Health Insurance for democracy in health: € 1.2 million for 28 approved associations of health users, Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidarity (Paris), 7 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-ministere-solidarites-sante-assurance-maladie-democratie-sanitaire>

<sup>4770</sup> Support from the Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Health Insurance for democracy in health: € 1.2 million for 28 approved associations of health users, Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidarity (Paris), 7 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/soutien-ministere-solidarites-sante-assurance-maladie-democratie-sanitaire>



Accounts, Health and Solidarity, Autonomy and to the Secretary of Report to the Prime Minister in charge of People with disabilities.<sup>4771</sup> The four policies are as follows:

- A promise of universality, through better territorial equity in access to rights for people with loss of autonomy;
- A reinforced quality promise of the support offer;
- A promise to strengthen cross-cutting disability and old age policies; and
- A promise of democracy, with, starting this year, an annual review of the autonomy policy and the conditions for its long-term financing within the framework of social security financing laws.<sup>4772</sup>

France has taken multiple policy actions to promote healthy ageing and active ageing. Certain health policies target functional ability with a focus on equity and diversity of the intrinsic capacity and environmental characteristics of elderly individuals. Policy measures also focus on preventative health care, participatory healthcare, and security. Taking into account the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, France implemented several measures to protect the elderly from COVID-19 infection and ensure their wellbeing during the pandemic. In addition to policies intended to protect the elderly in the near-term, France also outlined proposed measures to bolster the welfare of the elderly over a longer time horizon in the form of a “fifth pillar” of social security focused on increasing funding and support for elderly dependency and loss of autonomy.<sup>4773</sup> France has also taken action on active aging in terms of policy measures that address the health, participation and security of the elderly and their caregivers, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Ian Stansbury and Miles Harrison*

### **Germany: 0**

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 1 July 2019, the Government of Germany announced that those employed in low-paying jobs, or “midijobs,” which earn EUR450 to EUR850 per month would receive full pension entitlements despite contributing to social security at a lower rate.<sup>4774</sup> The initiative is a response to population

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<sup>4771</sup> Submission to the Government of the report on the creation of the “Autonomy” branch drawn up by Mr. Laurent Vachey, Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidarity (Paris), 15 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/remise-au-gouvernement-du-rapport-relatif-a-la-creation-de-la-branche-autonomie>; Ways to finance the reform of old age and autonomy, Le Monde (Paris), 15 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. [https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/09/15/les-pistes-pour-financer-la-reforme-du-grand-age-et-l-autonomie\\_6052231\\_3224.html](https://www.lemonde.fr/societe/article/2020/09/15/les-pistes-pour-financer-la-reforme-du-grand-age-et-l-autonomie_6052231_3224.html)

<sup>4772</sup> Submission to the Government of the report on the creation of the “Autonomy” branch drawn up by Mr. Laurent Vachey, Ministry of Health and Solidarity and Solidarity (Paris), 15 September 2020. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/remise-au-gouvernement-du-rapport-relatif-a-la-creation-de-la-branche-autonomie>

<sup>4773</sup> Exclusive dependency: what the government wants to do, Les Echos (Paris), 20 May 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <https://www.lesechos.fr/economie-france/social/exclusif-vers-une-nouvelle-branche-de-la-securite-sociale-consacree-a-la-dependance-1204500>

<sup>4774</sup> Pensions at a Glance: How does Germany compare?, OECD (Paris) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/germany/PAG2019-DEU.pdf>

ageing, specifically the increase of the retirement age to 67 by 2031.<sup>4775</sup> It addresses the risk of old-age poverty and financial sustainability challenges to the public pension scheme and aims to increase pension coverage and promote social protection for vulnerable groups.<sup>4776</sup>

From 23 to 24 September 2019, the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth hosted a “Peer Review on ‘Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age,’”<sup>4777</sup> which engaged experts from “Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Malta, the Netherlands and Romania” as well as European Commission and representatives from nongovernmental organizations in discussions of national and local projects and strategies to promote social inclusion of older persons.<sup>4778</sup> The peer review identified groups at risk to social isolation and exclusion and discussed strategies, policies and practices and targeted activities that promote social inclusion, such as digital literacy to encourage digital inclusion.<sup>4779</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Government of Germany adopted the Digital Healthcare Act, which supports government funded healthcare apps, video consultations with healthcare providers and a country-wide electronic patient medical record network.<sup>4780</sup> The Government of Germany will also promote digital health literacy education to insured persons, which would enable them to use digital healthcare programs.<sup>4781</sup>

On 1 July 2020, Germany adopted the “National Dementia Strategy,” which was developed under the leadership of the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth and the German Federal Ministry of Health, under the co-chairmanship of the German Alzheimer Society and with the participation of over 70 relevant institutions, associations and organizations.<sup>4782</sup> This strategy’s goal is to enable social participation of people with dementia, to provide more support for family caregivers, to further improve medical and long-term care health services and to encourage more research on dementia.<sup>4783</sup>

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<sup>4775</sup> Pensions at a Glance: How does Germany compare?, OECD (Paris) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/germany/PAG2019-DEU.pdf>

<sup>4776</sup> Pensions at a Glance: How does Germany compare?, OECD (Paris) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 4 February 2020. <https://www.oecd.org/germany/PAG2019-DEU.pdf>

<sup>4777</sup> Peer Review on “Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age”, European Commission (Berlin), 23-24 September 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1024&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9418>

<sup>4778</sup> Peer Review on “Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age”, European Commission (Berlin), 23-24 September 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=1024&furtherNews=yes&newsId=9418>

<sup>4779</sup> Executive Summary — Peer Review on ‘Strategies for supporting social inclusion at older age’ (Berlin), 23-24 September 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2019. <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1024&langId=en&newsId=9418&moreDocuments=yes&tableName=news>

<sup>4780</sup> Driving the digital transformation of Germany’s healthcare system for the good of patients, Federal Ministry of Health (Bonne) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/topics/digital-healthcare-act-dvg.html>

<sup>4781</sup> Driving the digital transformation of Germany’s healthcare system for the good of patients, Federal Ministry of Health (Bonne) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 29 January 2020.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/topics/digital-healthcare-act-dvg.html>

<sup>4782</sup> Federal government adopts national dementia strategy, National Dementia Strategy Office (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.nationale-demenzstrategie.de/aktuelles/artikel/kabinettschluss-zur-nationalen-demenzstrategie-1-1-1-1>

<sup>4783</sup> Federal government adopts national dementia strategy, National Dementia Strategy Office (Berlin) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 20 July 2020. <https://www.nationale-demenzstrategie.de/aktuelles/artikel/kabinettschluss-zur-nationalen-demenzstrategie-1-1-1-1>

On 12 August 2020, the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth released the Eighth Age Report.<sup>4784</sup> The report detailed the development, use and importance of digitalization and technology in areas of aging, such as mobility, social participation and health.<sup>4785</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth announced their support for the Malteser Relief Service project “Together for one another – contact and community in old age” to address and prevent loneliness in old age.<sup>4786</sup> The project will run until 2024 with EUR7 million in funding to increase volunteer and support services for older adults.<sup>4787</sup>

Germany has made taken some policy action to promote active ageing by improving pensions and digitalization of healthcare. However, it has not taken action to promote healthy ageing in terms of supporting functional ability.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Rachael Mannie*

### **India: 0**

India has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 4 July 2019, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman announced a prospective increase of the minimum retirement age for public sector workers while presenting the Economic Survey of 2018-19.<sup>4788</sup> The Government of India seeks to reduce dependency on state pensions owing to projections indicating an increase in the country’s population over the age of 60 to 234.9 million people by 2041.<sup>4789</sup>

On 18 July 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and

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<sup>4784</sup> Digitization offers great potential for older people, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/digitalisierung-bietet-grosses-potenzial-fuer-aeltere-menschen/159744>

<sup>4785</sup> Digitization offers great potential for older people, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/digitalisierung-bietet-grosses-potenzial-fuer-aeltere-menschen/159744>

<sup>4786</sup> Ministry supports the Maltese project against loneliness in old age, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerium-foerdert-malteser-projekt-gegen-einsamkeit-im-alter/160700>

<sup>4787</sup> Ministry supports the Maltese project against loneliness in old age, Federal Ministry for Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 22 September 2020.

<https://www.bmfsfj.de/bmfsfj/aktuelles/presse/pressemitteilungen/ministerium-foerdert-malteser-projekt-gegen-einsamkeit-im-alter/160700>

<sup>4788</sup> Economic Survey suggests increasing the retirement age could be considered given that life expectancy is likely to continue rising, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 4 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191197>

<sup>4789</sup> Indian govt warns of ageing population; says retirement age should rise, schools merge, Reuters (New Delhi) 4 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/india-economy-aging/indian-govt-warns-of-ageing-population-says-retirement-age-should-rise-schools-merge-idUSL4N2452BT>

Homoeopathy, the Ministry of Defence, and Ministry of Railways to enhance inter-ministerial cooperation towards the eradication of tuberculosis in India by 2025.<sup>4790</sup>

On 9 October 2019, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan announced the launch of “The WHO India Country Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023: A Time of Transition.”<sup>4791</sup> The Country Cooperation Strategy aims to provide a framework for the WHO to cooperate with the Government of India towards health sector objectives that improve India’s population health and the health sector. Minister Vardhan declared four areas of collaboration with the WHO, specifically, “to accelerate progress on UHC [universal health coverage]; to promote health and wellness by addressing determinants of health; to protect the population better against health emergencies; and to enhance India’s global leadership in health.”<sup>4792</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thawarchand Gehlot introduced the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in the House of the People.<sup>4793</sup> The bill amends the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, which mandates the care of elderly parents by adult children or the provision of financial support for the same.<sup>4794</sup> It creates administrative tribunals to resolve disputes between parents and children over maintenance amounts, increases criminal penalties for children who default on payments, establishes “senior citizen care” homes and reserves facilities for senior citizens in public hospitals.<sup>4795</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare announced that 100,000 Sub Health Centres and Primary Health Centres will become Health and Wellness Centres across the country, which will facilitate operations and delivery of comprehensive primary health care.<sup>4796</sup> It provides preventive healthcare services and promotes health at the community level, and a continuum care approach will be implemented by December 2022.<sup>4797</sup>

On 29 February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed aids and assistive devices at a mega distribution camp in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh to an estimated 27,000 Divyangjan and senior

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<sup>4790</sup> Health Ministry signs MoUs with three Ministries for enhanced cooperation to end TB by 2025, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4791</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO IndiaCountry Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4792</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches WHO IndiaCountry Cooperation Strategy 2019–2023, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4793</sup> The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019, PRS Legislative Research (New Delhi) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/maintenance-and-welfare-parents-and-senior-citizens-amendment-bill-2019>

<sup>4794</sup> The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019, PRS Legislative Research (New Delhi) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/maintenance-and-welfare-parents-and-senior-citizens-amendment-bill-2019>

<sup>4795</sup> The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019, PRS Legislative Research (New Delhi) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://prsindia.org/billtrack/maintenance-and-welfare-parents-and-senior-citizens-amendment-bill-2019>

<sup>4796</sup> Opening of Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4797</sup> Opening of Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Yojana, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

citizens.<sup>4798</sup> This initiative aims to support senior citizens and disabled persons under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana and the Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchasing/Fitting of Aids/Appliances schemes.<sup>4799</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the Ministry and Health and Family announced that it is implementing the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly at the various levels of health facilities.<sup>4800</sup> This initiative recognizes the health care needs specific to the elderly and provides facilities dedicated towards the elderly population. The program, which will be implemented in 713 districts of India, aims “to provide accessible, affordable, comprehensive and dedicated health care services.”<sup>4801</sup> For tertiary-level health care facilities, 19 regional geriatric centres and two national centres for ageing have been approved for implementation.<sup>4802</sup>

India has taken some policy actions towards the promotion of healthy ageing through programs that support preventive healthcare, the development of more Health and Wellness centres, and the distribution of assistive devices. However, India has taken no policy action towards active ageing in terms of social, political, cultural, and/or economic inclusion.

Thus, India receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Arjun Singh*

### **Indonesia: -1**

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

Indonesia has not taken any policy actions to address healthy ageing nor active ageing. No actions were found for this report after searching online news sources, government publications, ministries, and international organizations.<sup>4803</sup>

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Shafna Kallil*

### **Italy: -1**

Italy has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 21 October 2019, at the G20 Ministers of Health meeting in Okayama, Japan, Italian Minister of Health Roberto Speranza declared “health as a fundamental right of the individuals and an interest to

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<sup>4798</sup> PM distributes Aids & Assistive Devices to Divyangjan and Senior Citizens at a mega distribution camp (Samajik Adhikarta Shivir) in Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 29 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604733>

<sup>4799</sup> PM distributes Aids & Assistive Devices to Divyangjan and Senior Citizens at a mega distribution camp (Samajik Adhikarta Shivir) in Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 29 February 2020. Access Date: 29 February 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604733>

<sup>4800</sup> Health Issues Related to Senior Citizens, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4801</sup> Health Issues Related to Senior Citizens, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4802</sup> Health Issues Related to Senior Citizens, Press Information Bureau of the Government of India (New Delhi) 3 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1605657>

<sup>4803</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://www.presidentri.go.id/>, <https://jakartaglobe.id/>, and <https://www.insideindonesia.org/>

the community,” and that the Italian government would defend the principle of universality of the national health coverage and to this end has invested new resources dedicated to healthcare in the last budget plan.<sup>4804</sup> The meeting also addressed the issue of population ageing.<sup>4805</sup> Minister Speranza declared that Italy has adopted a “global strategy” that aims to undertake collaborative efforts of various sectors in society and health systems to address disease prevention and treatment, and that Italy will address dementia as a priority.<sup>4806</sup>

On 8 November 2019, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza met with China’s Minister of Health Ma Xiaowei to sign the Implementation Programme of the Plan of Action for the years 2019 to 2021, which aims to establish healthcare cooperation between Italy and China to sectors such as oncology, cardiology and primary care.<sup>4807</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the Istituto Superiore di Sanità introduced an application which allows health and social workers to identify elderly people at risk of frailty.<sup>4808</sup> Funded by the Ministry of Health, the application uses a “Physical Activity Scale for the Elderly” questionnaire to identify physical activity levels of people over the age of 64 and direct them towards appropriate methods of performing physical activities.<sup>4809</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza established the Elderly Assistance Commission, which is a commission that aims to reform health care and social care of the elderly population.<sup>4810</sup> This initiative will “facilitate a transition from residential care to an effective presence in the area through home care, support for families and telemedicine.”<sup>4811</sup>

Italy has reaffirmed its commitment to health systems and taken action to promote active ageing through collaborating with China on healthcare cooperation. While Italy has funded a project to promote active aging, it has not made substantive progress on the promotion of healthy and active ageing through policy measures.

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<sup>4804</sup> G20 sanità. Speranza: "Tutela salute individuo è alla base nostra Costituzione", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934)

<sup>4805</sup> G20 sanità. Speranza: "Tutela salute individuo è alla base nostra Costituzione", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934)

<sup>4806</sup> G20 sanità. Speranza: "Tutela salute individuo è alla base nostra Costituzione", Ministero della Salute (Rome) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3934)

<sup>4807</sup> Italia-Cina, incontro tra i ministri della Salute Roberto Speranza e Ma Xiaowei, Ministero della Salute (Rome) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 29 February 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3956](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3956)

<sup>4808</sup> The quality of life seen by people aged 65 and over, The portal of epidemiology for public health by the Higher Institute of Health (Rome) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.epicentro.iss.it/passi-argento/>

<sup>4809</sup> From the ISS an APP to counter the risk of frailty among the elderly, The portal of epidemiology for public health by the Higher Institute of Health (Rome) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.epicentro.iss.it/passi-argento/info/app-fragilita>

<sup>4810</sup> Health: Hope establishes the Elderly Assistance Commission, the President will be Mons. Paglia, Ministry of Health (Rome), 21 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5650](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5650)

<sup>4811</sup> Health: Hope establishes the Elderly Assistance Commission, the President will be Mons. Paglia, Ministry of Health (Rome), 21 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. [http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_4\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5650](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_4_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5650)

Thus, Italy receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Zarlasht Jamal*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 30 August 2019, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare selected four organizations to implement the “Lifelong Active Promotion Regional Collaboration Project (for the Second Recruitment in the First Year of Reiwa).”<sup>4812</sup> The program aims to promote employment opportunities for elderly people and support their active role in the workplace.<sup>4813</sup>

On 30 October 2019, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on cabinet ministers to speed up the work on introducing driver’s licences that restrict senior drivers to only drive vehicles with safe support functions.<sup>4814</sup>

On 21 November 2019, the Japanese government announced plans to subsidize the purchase of cars with safety functions for Japanese citizens aged 65 or over.<sup>4815</sup> Vehicles with safety features will allow senior residents to continue to drive while also reducing the number of fatal traffic accidents caused by the elderly.<sup>4816</sup>

On 17 December 2019, in response to the rise in car accidents associated with senior drivers, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism declared that it would apply the United Nations international standard on automatic breaks, requiring domestic automakers to equip passenger cars with automatic breaks by November 2021.<sup>4817</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the Cabinet approved bills to encourage businesses to allow employees to work until 70 years of age, which will go into effect in April 2021.<sup>4818</sup> While the adoption of the bills is not mandatory, the bills urge business to choose from five options such as raising the retirement age,

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<sup>4812</sup> 「生涯現役促進地域連携事業（令和元年度開始分・2次募集）」の実施団体候補として4団体を決定, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000207424\\_00006.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000207424_00006.html)

<sup>4813</sup> 「生涯現役促進地域連携事業（令和元年度開始分・2次募集）」の実施団体候補として4団体を決定, Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (Tokyo) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020.

[https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000207424\\_00006.html](https://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/0000207424_00006.html)

<sup>4814</sup> After accidents involving elderly, Japan eyes license restricting drivers to cars with safety features, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/10/30/national/japan-drivers-license-for-elderly/> — .Xj78rVJKjOR

<sup>4815</sup> Japan aims to offer subsidies to elderly drivers for cars with safety systems, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/21/national/japan-subsidies-to-elderly-drivers-for-safer-cars/> — .Xj4711JKhQI

<sup>4816</sup> Japan aims to offer subsidies to elderly drivers for cars with safety systems, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 21 November 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/11/21/national/japan-subsidies-to-elderly-drivers-for-safer-cars/> — .Xj4711JKhQI

<sup>4817</sup> With eye on elderly, Japan to make automatic brakes mandatory for new cars from late 2021, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 17 December 2019. Access Date: 11 January 2020.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/12/17/national/japan-automatic-brakes-new-cars-2021/> — .Xj471VJKhQI

<sup>4818</sup> Japan to amend laws to help elderly work until 70, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/04/national/japan-amend-laws-elderly-work-until-70/> — .Xj74sVJKhQI

removing the retirement age, or allowing senior employees to continue working after the current age limit.<sup>4819</sup>

Japan has taken action to promote healthy ageing through policies on safety measures that aim to improve senior citizens' ability to drive, which encourages independence and functional ability. Japan has also supported the development of community-based projects, which promote elderly citizens' employment opportunities and support their continued economic participation, enabling their active participation in society.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Fatima Chohan*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 3 July 2019, the government of Korea announced an increase in employment programs for low-income people, including older adults.<sup>4820</sup>

On 4 September 2019, the Ministry of Science Technology and Information Communications announced an increase in funding for research in the pharmaceutical sector to KRW1.15 trillion.<sup>4821</sup> This includes an increase to KRW93.8 billion dedicated to the development of “full life cycle medical devices.”<sup>4822</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the government of Korea announced that it will set up incentives for companies that hire older adults aged 60 or older.<sup>4823</sup> The government of Korea will invest KRW19.2 billion for this initiative.<sup>4824</sup>

On 18 September 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki announced measures to manage demographic changes.<sup>4825</sup> These measures include developing “smart workplaces” for older adult employees, improving pension plans and the welfare system and increasing support for businesses to maintain older adult employees.<sup>4826</sup>

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<sup>4819</sup> Japan to amend laws to help elderly work until 70, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/02/04/national/japan-amend-laws-elderly-work-until-70/> — Xj74sVJKhQJ

<sup>4820</sup> Economic Policies, H2 2019, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4710>

<sup>4821</sup> Korea ups R&D budget by 16% in biotech, backs genome data initiative next year, Pulse by Maeil Business News Korea 4 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2019&no=698622>

<sup>4822</sup> Korea ups R&D budget by 16% in biotech, backs genome data initiative next year, Pulse by Maeil Business News Korea 4 September 2019. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2019&no=698622>

<sup>4823</sup> S. Korea unveils measures to cope with population decline, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20190918004251320>

<sup>4824</sup> S. Korea unveils measures to cope with population decline, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20190918004251320>

<sup>4825</sup> Government Unveils Framework Measures to Deal with Demographic Changes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4754>

<sup>4826</sup> Government Unveils Framework Measures to Deal with Demographic Changes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4754>



On 14 November 2019, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki announced additional measures to manage demographic changes, which include increasing senior housing, such as residential care facilities, developing guidelines for establishing age-friendly cities and improving pension plans.<sup>4827</sup>

On 19-20 October 2019, Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neung-hoo, at the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, shared Government of Korea plans to improve international healthcare collaboration.<sup>4828</sup> These plans include the Community Care project and the National Dementia Initiative.<sup>4829</sup>

On 29 October 2019, the Ministry of Health and Welfare announced measures to improve support to those living with dementia.<sup>4830</sup> These measures include increasing cognitive rehabilitation programs, increasing short term care service, increasing the number of care facilities for dementia patients, and the investment of KRW198.7 billion in dementia research.<sup>4831</sup>

On 15 December 2019, the Korean Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neung-hoo, China's National Health Commission Director Ma Xiaowei and Japan's Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare Katsunobu Kato, released a joint statement that Korea, China, and Japan would collaborate to promote healthy and active aging and improve health systems through information and communications technology and data.<sup>4832</sup> Korea will be increasing health insurance benefits to reduce financial burden on older citizens and aim to ensure high quality of life for senior citizens.<sup>4833</sup>

On 13 January 2020, President Moon Jae-in appointed Democratic Party lawmaker Seo Hyung-soo as vice head of the Presidential Committee on Ageing Society and Population Policy.<sup>4834</sup> The committee aims to investigate future healthy ageing policies and explore solutions that address social problems.<sup>4835</sup>

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<sup>4827</sup> Government Unveils Last Round of Measures to Deal with Demographic Changes, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 14 November 2019. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4787>

<sup>4828</sup> Minister Park Neung-hoo emphasizes international cooperation in healthcare at the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=351258](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=351258).

<sup>4829</sup> Minister Park Neung-hoo emphasizes international cooperation in healthcare at the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=351258](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=351258)

<sup>4830</sup> DayNight Care for Dementia Patients to be Strengthened and National Research on Dementia to be Conducted, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=351361](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=351361)

<sup>4831</sup> DayNight Care for Dementia Patients to be Strengthened and National Research on Dementia to be Conducted, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR\\_MENU\\_ID=1007&MENU\\_ID=100701&page=1&CONT\\_SEQ=351361](https://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/nw/nw0101vw.jsp?PAR_MENU_ID=1007&MENU_ID=100701&page=1&CONT_SEQ=351361)

<sup>4832</sup> S. Korea, China, Japan to work together on health coverage, infectious disease, active healthy aging, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 15 December 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2019. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191214001900320>

<sup>4833</sup> S. Korea, China, Japan to work together on health coverage, infectious disease, active healthy aging, Yonhap News Agency (Seoul) 15 December 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2019. <https://en.yna.co.kr/view/AEN20191214001900320>

<sup>4834</sup> Lawmaker picked for presidential panel on aging society, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 13 January 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200113000646&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200113000646&ACE_SEARCH=1)

<sup>4835</sup> Lawmaker picked for presidential panel on aging society, The Korea Herald (Seoul) 13 January 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200113000646&ACE\\_SEARCH=1](http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200113000646&ACE_SEARCH=1)

On 30 January 2020, the government of Korea launched the second population policy taskforce to tackle demographic challenges, which includes supporting digital financial literacy of the elderly, the development of “elder-friendly financial products”<sup>4836</sup> and creating senior markets.<sup>4837</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the Ministry of Economy and Finance announced that an increase in pension benefits from KRW250,000 to KRW300,000 per month.<sup>4838</sup> This pension benefit will expand coverage to include the bottom 40 per cent of earners in addition to the previous standard of bottom 20 per cent of earners.<sup>4839</sup>

On 1 June 2020, Korea announced the implementation of digital education to older adults provided to 3,000 community centres nationwide.<sup>4840</sup> This is part of a KRW800 trillion investment in the telecommunications industry.<sup>4841</sup>

On 1 June 2020, the government announced that it will invest KRW1.4 trillion in remote learning and working by 2022.<sup>4842</sup> This includes providing remote care services to 120,000 older adults.<sup>4843</sup>

On 14 July 2020, the government announced the Korean New Deal with one expected outcome of digital inclusion.<sup>4844</sup> All rural areas will be provided internet access and 70 per cent of older adults will be able to access mobile internet access.<sup>4845</sup>

On 1 September 2020, the government announced that it will invest KRW8.6 trillion in job retention and creation.<sup>4846</sup> This includes the creation of 1.03 million public sector jobs for older adults and those living with disability.<sup>4847</sup>

Korea has taken action to promote healthy and active aging through supporting the continued economic inclusion of elderly citizens, dementia support in terms of dementia research and cognitive

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<sup>4836</sup> Taskforce on 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Population Policy Takes Off, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4827>

<sup>4837</sup> Taskforce on 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Population Policy Takes Off, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4827>

<sup>4838</sup> 2020 Work Report: Promote Investment and Support Industrial Innovation, Ministry of Health and Welfare (Sejong City) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 17 March 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4842>

<sup>4839</sup> Korea’s minimum wage goes up 2.9% to \$7.4, child benefits increased in 2020, Pulse by Maeil Business News Korea 1 January 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://pulsenews.co.kr/view.php?year=2020&no=726>

<sup>4840</sup> Korea to focus on digital, green initiatives to boost economy, The Korea Times (Seoul) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2020/06/602\\_290494.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2020/06/602_290494.html)

<sup>4841</sup> Korea to focus on digital, green initiatives to boost economy, The Korea Times (Seoul) 2 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. [http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2020/06/602\\_290494.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/biz/2020/06/602_290494.html)

<sup>4842</sup> Economic Policies, H2 2020, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4913>

<sup>4843</sup> Economic Policies, H2 2020, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 1 June 2020. Access Date: 21 July 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4913>

<sup>4844</sup> Government Announces Overview of Korean New Deal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4940>

<sup>4845</sup> Government Announces Overview of Korean New Deal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 14 July 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020.

<http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4940>

<sup>4846</sup> 2021 Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4967>

<sup>4847</sup> 2021 Budget Proposal, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Sejong City) 1 September 2020. Access Date: 21 September 2020. <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4967>

rehabilitation programs that support functional ability, improved pension plans, and cooperation with other countries to improve health systems.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Rachael Mannie*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 19 July 2019, Secretary of Welfare María Luisa Albores González announced that in the municipality of San Luis Potosí, “200 thousand people over 68 will be supported, with the delivery of MXN2,550 bimonthly.”<sup>4848</sup> This support embodies the goal of “benefiting the elderly” to “renew the face of communities, ranches and territories.”<sup>4849</sup>

On 30 July 2019, the Directorate of Economic Social and Cultural Benefits of the Institute of Security and Social Services of State Workers released a series of online multimedia courses aimed at providing education about how to take care of older adults.<sup>4850</sup> The courses aim to “empower [elder adults and their caregivers] with information,” which will help them “improve their quality of life and promote welfare states, thereby increasing their participation in social, family and economic life.”<sup>4851</sup>

From 14 to 16 October 2019, representatives from Mexico attended the first Hispanic Conference on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.<sup>4852</sup> Spanish speakers congregated at the conference to share “knowledge, experience and tools” and create a “Spanish speaking movement within the Global Network for age-friendly cities and communities.”<sup>4853</sup> Activities included a series of round tables, workshops, and field visits to age-friendly communities and cities.<sup>4854</sup>

On 23 October 2019, Secretary González and the rector of the National Autonomous University of Mexico Enrique Graue Weichers signed a General Collaboration Agreement, in which officials

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<sup>4848</sup>Gobierno de México trabaja para cerrar las brechas de la discriminación y pobreza: María Luisa Albores González, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/gobierno-de-mexico-trabaja-para-cerrar-las-brechas-de-la-discriminacion-y-pobreza-maria-luisa-albores-gonzalez?idiom=es>

<sup>4849</sup>Gobierno de México trabaja para cerrar las brechas de la discriminación y pobreza: María Luisa Albores González, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 19 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/gobierno-de-mexico-trabaja-para-cerrar-las-brechas-de-la-discriminacion-y-pobreza-maria-luisa-albores-gonzalez?idiom=es>

<sup>4850</sup>Adultos Mayores. Cursos Multimedia, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 30 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/issste/acciones-y-programas/portal-del-adulto-mayor>

<sup>4851</sup>Adultos Mayores, Instituto de Seguridad y Servicios Sociales de Los Trabajadores del Estado, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 30 July 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <http://www.issste.gob.mx/adultosmayores/>

<sup>4852</sup>First ever Hispanic conference on age-friendly cities and communities, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/>

<sup>4853</sup>First ever Hispanic conference on age-friendly cities and communities, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/>

<sup>4854</sup>First ever Hispanic conference on age-friendly cities and communities, World Health Organisation (Geneva) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://extranet.who.int/agefriendlyworld/>

specifically mentioned “opportunities for collaboration in topics such as regional development, health, environment, older adults” as part of the efforts to solve social inequality present in Mexico.<sup>4855</sup>

On 11 November 2019, Secretary González declared that the Pension for the Well-being of Older Adults would expand its budget from MXN100 billion to MXN126.65 billion.<sup>4856</sup> The declaration occurred at the First Regular Session of the National Commission for Social Development.<sup>4857</sup>

On 29 January 2020, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador helped support the inauguration of the new General Hospital of Mazatlan, Sinaloa by the federal and state governments.<sup>4858</sup> Involving an investment of over MXN1,000 million, the new general hospital is run by trained personnel and is outfitted to provide, among others, geriatric care.<sup>4859</sup>

On 31 January 2020, Secretary González specifically commended the remodeling work in two hostels in Mexico City during a visit with the Head of the National Institute of Older Adults (Inapam) Elsa Veites Arévalo.<sup>4860</sup> Both were affiliated with Inapam and had a focus on “[providing] food, medical care, rehabilitation and occupational therapy for older adults who require extended stay.”<sup>4861</sup>

On 1 February 2020, while accompanying President López Obrador to publicize the progress of the Comprehensive Welfare Programs, Secretary González pledged to expand the coverage of elder adults receiving welfare pension from 55,000 older adults to more than 58,000 in the 2020 Comprehensive Welfare Programs.<sup>4862</sup>

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<sup>4855</sup> Refrenda Secretaría de Bienestar colaboración con todos los órdenes de gobierno contra la pobreza, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/refrenda-secretaria-de-bienestar-colaboracion-con-todos-los-ordenes-de-gobierno-contra-la-pobreza?idiom=es>

<sup>4856</sup> Refrenda Secretaría de Bienestar colaboración con todos los órdenes de gobierno contra la pobreza, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/refrenda-secretaria-de-bienestar-colaboracion-con-todos-los-ordenes-de-gobierno-contra-la-pobreza?idiom=es>

<sup>4857</sup> Refrenda Secretaría de Bienestar colaboración con todos los órdenes de gobierno contra la pobreza, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/refrenda-secretaria-de-bienestar-colaboracion-con-todos-los-ordenes-de-gobierno-contra-la-pobreza?idiom=es>

<sup>4858</sup> Con apoyo del Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, el gobierno federal y estatal inauguraron el Hospital General de Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/insabi/articulos/con-apoyo-del-presidente-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-el-gobierno-federal-y-estatal-inauguraron-el-hospital-general-de-mazatlan-sinaloa?idiom=es>

<sup>4859</sup> Con apoyo del Presidente Andrés Manuel López Obrador, el gobierno federal y estatal inauguraron el Hospital General de Mazatlán, Sinaloa, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 29 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/insabi/articulos/con-apoyo-del-presidente-andres-manuel-lopez-obrador-el-gobierno-federal-y-estatal-inauguraron-el-hospital-general-de-mazatlan-sinaloa?idiom=es>

<sup>4860</sup> Supervisa secretaria de Bienestar remodelación de albergues del Inapam, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/supervisa-secretaria-de-bienestar-remodelacion-de-albergues-del-inapam>

<sup>4861</sup> Supervisa secretaria de Bienestar remodelación de albergues del Inapam, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/supervisa-secretaria-de-bienestar-remodelacion-de-albergues-del-inapam>

<sup>4862</sup> María Luisa Albores informa sobre los avances de los Programas Integrales de Bienestar en Campeche, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 1 February 2020. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/maria-luisa-albores-informa-sobre-los-avances-de-los-programas-integrales-de-bienestar-en-campeche>

On 6 March 2020, Secretary González announced that the Comprehensive Welfare Programs aim to prioritize the wellbeing of the most vulnerable population.<sup>4863</sup> The Pension Program for the Welfare of the Elderly, which financially supports over 200,000 older adults increased from MXN2,550 to MXN2,620.<sup>4864</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the Secretariat of Welfare, in collaboration with Secretariat of Health adopted necessary administrative actions and sanitary measures to ensure hygienic conditions in the operation and delivery of Comprehensive Welfare Program to the most vulnerable population, namely older adults and those with disabilities.<sup>4865</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the Secretariat of Welfare announced that older adults and people with disabilities will receive an advance on pension payments for the two-month periods, March-April and May-June, totalling MXN5,240, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4866</sup> As there are more than 8 million elderly people and 800,000 people with disabilities in the country, the investment totals to MXN46.4 billion. This initiative ensures that seniors and people with disabilities, who are the most vulnerable population to health risks of COVID-19, can purchase essential items and stay safely at home to avoid risks to their health.<sup>4867</sup>

On 14 April 2020, the National Institute for Older Adults published a fact sheet urging the strengthening of intergenerational relationships in support of older people in the community during the pandemic.<sup>4868</sup> In order to facilitate interactions, the fact sheet included suggestions on how to contact elderly acquaintances and relatives.<sup>4869</sup>

On 24 May 2020, the Institute for Social Security and Services for State Workers published a release on its actions in monitoring the health of over 2,758 older adults by telephone in quarantine.<sup>4870</sup> The program, entitled the “Telephone Gerontological Accompaniment Program,” is part of strategies to

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<sup>4863</sup> Con programas de Bienestar, se coloca en el centro de la política social a los más vulnerables, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020 <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/con-programas-de-bienestar-se-coloca-en-el-centro-de-la-politica-social-a-los-mas-vulnerables?idiom=es>

<sup>4864</sup> Con programas de Bienestar, se coloca en el centro de la política social a los más vulnerables, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020 <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/con-programas-de-bienestar-se-coloca-en-el-centro-de-la-politica-social-a-los-mas-vulnerables?idiom=es>

<sup>4865</sup> Continúan labores estratégicas en la Secretaría de Bienestar, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 26 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/continuan-labores-estrategicas-en-la-secretaria-de-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>4866</sup> En apoyo a la economía popular se adelanta pago de pensiones de adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/en-apoyo-a-la-economia-popular-se-adelanta-pago-de-pensiones-de-adultos-mayores-y-personas-con-discapacidad?idiom=es>

<sup>4867</sup> En apoyo a la economía popular se adelanta pago de pensiones de adultos mayores y personas con discapacidad, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/en-apoyo-a-la-economia-popular-se-adelanta-pago-de-pensiones-de-adultos-mayores-y-personas-con-discapacidad?idiom=es>

<sup>4868</sup> It is time to strengthen intergenerational relationships, National Institute for Older Adults (Mexico City) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 11 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inapam/articulos/es-tiempo-de-fortalecer-las-relaciones-intergeneracionales?idiom=es>

<sup>4869</sup> It is time to strengthen intergenerational relationships, National Institute for Older Adults (Mexico City) 14 April 2020. Access Date: 11 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inapam/articulos/es-tiempo-de-fortalecer-las-relaciones-intergeneracionales?idiom=es>

<sup>4870</sup> The ISSSTE monitors the health of 2,758 older adults with gerontological monitoring by telephone, in quarantine, Institute of Security and Social Services for State Workers (Mexico City) 24 May 2020. Access Date: 11 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/issste/prensa/monitorea-el-issste-salud-de-2-mil-758-adultos-mayores-con-acompanamiento-con-acompanamiento-gerontologico-telefonico-en-cuarentena?idiom=es>

“reduce the risks of COVID-19 in the vulnerable population” by ensuring “adherence and continuation of [treatment]” and continued “[integration] with the family and with respect to the prevention of abuse or violence in the home.”<sup>4871</sup>

On 18 June 2020, the National Institute for Older Adults published an informative article detailing the rights of the elderly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4872</sup> Specifically, the article stressed the importance of inalienability and universality of human rights, the Law on the Rights of Older Adults, and the right of elderly people to preferential care.

On 2 July 2020, the Undersecretary of Welfare Ariadna Montiel Reyes presented a dispersal operation strategy taken by the Government of Mexico through the Ministry of Welfare.<sup>4873</sup> A wellness pension totalling MXN5,240 for the months of July, August, September and October will be given to seniors and people with disabilities through bank transfer or cash.<sup>4874</sup>

On 8 September 2020, the Ministry of Health announced that, starting the following week, “the delivery of 76,247 Welfare Cards will begin for older adults.”<sup>4875</sup> This will incorporate individuals who have met the age requirements into the registry to receive their pension.<sup>4876</sup>

Mexico has taken multiply policy actions to promote healthy and active ageing, with consideration to equity and diversity. Specifically, Mexico has launched online courses that support health literacy, remodelled structures to improve standard of care and functional ability of older people, improved pensions for older adults, and politically engaged older adults in the first Hispanic Conference on Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. However, Mexico has not taken policy action to promote active ageing in terms of political, social, economic, and/or cultural inclusion.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Daisy Liu*

### **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

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<sup>4871</sup> The ISSSTE monitors the health of 2,758 older adults with gerontological monitoring by telephone, in quarantine, Institute of Security and Social Services for State Workers (Mexico City) 24 May 2020. Access Date: 11 July 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/issste/prensa/monitoreo-el-issste-salud-de-2-mil-758-adultos-mayores-con-acompanamiento-con-acompanamiento-gerontologico-telefonico-en-cuarentena?idiom=es>

<sup>4872</sup> Rights of the elderly and COVID-19, National Institute for Older Adults (Mexico City) 18 June 2020. Access Date: 11 July 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inapam/articulos/derechos-de-las-personas-mayores-y-covid-19?idiom=es>

<sup>4873</sup> They will pay four months of Welfare Pensions in July, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 02 July 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/pagaran-en-julio-cuatro-meses-de-las-pensiones-para-el-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>4874</sup> They will pay four months of Welfare Pensions in July, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 02 July 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/pagaran-en-julio-cuatro-meses-de-las-pensiones-para-el-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>4875</sup> More than 76 thousand cards will be delivered to older adults recently incorporated into the Wellbeing Pension, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 08 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/se-entregaran-mas-de-76-mil-tarjetas-a-adultos-mayores-recien-incorporados-a-la-pension-bienestar?idiom=es>

<sup>4876</sup> More than 76 thousand cards will be delivered to older adults recently incorporated into the Wellbeing Pension, Government of Mexico (Mexico City) 08 September 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/bienestar/prensa/se-entregaran-mas-de-76-mil-tarjetas-a-adultos-mayores-recien-incorporados-a-la-pension-bienestar?idiom=es>

On 11 October 2019, the Ministry of Health hosted the Second All-Russian Forum, titled “Russia — the Territory of Care,” which included a meeting of the Board of the Russian Association of Gerontologists and Geriatrics along with analytical contributions from the Russian Gerontological Scientific and Clinical Centre.<sup>4877</sup> Russian regional representatives proposed various draft projects to help Russia’s elderly persons, including those aiming to prevent and reduce various ailments that they may have to endure, such as arterial hypertension, and discussed novel treatments such as lipid-lowering therapy.<sup>4878</sup>

On 12 November 2019, the Ministry of Health hosted a district meeting for the implementation of the federal project titled “The Elder Generation” in Russia’s North Caucasus.<sup>4879</sup> The meeting discussed geriatric services and long-term care and also reiterated Russia’s national “Demography” project’s goal of increasing life expectancy in Russia up to 78 years.<sup>4880</sup>

On 28 November 2019, Russia and the World Health Organization formed a bilateral working group for long-term care in Russia.<sup>4881</sup> The group will work to develop and improve Russia’s long-term care system by establishing an “exchange platform” for policymakers and experts in Russia.<sup>4882</sup>

On 3 December 2019, head geriatrician of the Ministry of Health Olga Tkacheva held a meeting between regional district leaders, where provisions for regional geriatric services and long-term care systems were discussed and negotiated.<sup>4883</sup> The legal regulatory framework to govern long-term care was also introduced and discussed at the meeting, as well as frameworks for the interdepartmental exchange of data and interregional cooperation.<sup>4884</sup>

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<sup>4877</sup> 11.10. Москва: В Москве завершился II Всероссийский форум «Россия — территория заботы», Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/11-10-moskva-v-moskve-zavershilsya-ii-vserossiyskiy-forum-rossiya-territoriya-zaboty>

<sup>4878</sup> 11.10. Москва: В Москве завершился II Всероссийский форум «Россия — территория заботы», Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 12 October 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/11-10-moskva-v-moskve-zavershilsya-ii-vserossiyskiy-forum-rossiya-territoriya-zaboty>

<sup>4879</sup> Развитие гериатрии на Северном Кавказе, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/razvitie-geriatrii-na-severnom-kavkaze>

<sup>4880</sup> Развитие гериатрии на Северном Кавказе, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/razvitie-geriatrii-na-severnom-kavkaze>

<sup>4881</sup> Long-term care services in focus in the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Copenhagen) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Life-stages/healthy-ageing/news/news/2019/12/long-term-care-services-in-focus-in-the-russian-federation>

<sup>4882</sup> Long-term care services in focus in the Russian Federation, World Health Organization (Copenhagen) 26 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <http://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Life-stages/healthy-ageing/news/news/2019/12/long-term-care-services-in-focus-in-the-russian-federation>

<sup>4883</sup> 03.12 В Уфе состоялось окружное совещание по реализации ФП «Старшее поколение», Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/v-ufe-sostoyalos-okruzhnoe-soveshanie-po-realizatsii-fp-starshee-pokolenie>

<sup>4884</sup> 03.12 В Уфе состоялось окружное совещание по реализации ФП «Старшее поколение», Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020.

<https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/poleznye-resursy/natsproektzdravoohranenie/stranitsa-5729/novosti-proekta/v-ufe-sostoyalos-okruzhnoe-soveshanie-po-realizatsii-fp-starshee-pokolenie>

On 20 December 2019, the Ministry of Health released Order No. 1067n to amend the previous procedure for geriatric care to clarify several provisions, including patient referrals for palliative care, calculations for the need of gerontological beds, and the creation of regional geriatric centres.<sup>4885</sup>

On 1 January 2020, the government indexed insurance pensions for non-working pensioners by 6.6 per cent.<sup>4886</sup> This is expected to affect approximately 31 million non-working pensioners and is projected to increase the average annual size of old-age insurance pension to RUB1,000.<sup>4887</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the State Duma passed Bill No. 674572-7, which aimed to increase the penalties for businesses that refuse to serve disabled and/or elderly individuals.<sup>4888</sup> President Putin signed the bill on 18 March 2020.<sup>4889</sup> This bill supports the consumer rights of socially vulnerable groups, including seniors and people with disabilities.

On 18 March 2020, President Vladimir Putin signed into law Bill No. 722163-7 on reforms to non-state pension funds.<sup>4890</sup> According to the Chairman of the State Duma Viacheslav Volodin, the measures “reduce the age that gives the right to grant a non-state pension, from 60 to 55 for women and from 65 to 60 for me” in order to “support people of pre-retirement age.”<sup>4891</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Ministry of Health published special recommendations on the prevention of COVID-19 infection for Russians at least 60 years old and older.<sup>4892</sup> The Ministry recommended not going outside except in essential circumstances, refraining from travelling via public transport and re-scheduling non-essential visits to the doctor.<sup>4893</sup>

On 25 March 2020, President Putin asked the Russian people to attend to the needs of the at-risk older generation during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4894</sup> President Putin stated, “minimizing the risks should be a priority for [the elderly] and all people in general.”<sup>4895</sup>

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<sup>4885</sup> Новый приказ Минздрава России не исключает оказание ВМП пожилым пациентам, Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Moscow) 13 January 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.rosminzdrav.ru/news/2020/01/13/13134-novyy-prikaz-minzdrava-rossii-ne-isklyuchaet-okazanie-vmp-pozhilym-patsientam>

<sup>4886</sup> October 1 is International Day of Older Persons, Ministry of Labor of Russia (Moscow) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2020. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/social/veteran-defence/77>

<sup>4887</sup> October 1 is International Day of Older Persons, Ministry of Labor of Russia (Moscow) 30 September 2019. Access Date: 19 October 2020. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/social/veteran-defence/77>

<sup>4888</sup> Bill No. 674572-7, On Amendments to Article 14.8 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses, State Duma (Moscow), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/674572-7>

<sup>4889</sup> Bill No. 674572-7, On Amendments to Article 14.8 of the Code of the Russian Federation on Administrative Offenses, State Duma (Moscow), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/674572-7>

<sup>4890</sup> Bill No. 722163-7, On amendments to Article 10 of the Federal Law "On Non-State Pension Funds" on the issues of assigning non-state pensions, 18 March 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/722163-7>

<sup>4891</sup> The age that gives the right to grant a non-state pension is decreasing, Federation Council (Moscow), 3 March 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/47922/>

<sup>4892</sup> Recommendations of the Russian Ministry of Health for the prevention of coronavirus infection for older Russians, Ministry of Health (Moscow), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020.

<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/03/23/13564-rekomendatsii-minzdrava-rossii-po-profilaktike-koronavirusnoy-infeksii-dlya-rossiyan-starshego-vozrasta>

<sup>4893</sup> Recommendations of the Russian Ministry of Health for the prevention of coronavirus infection for older Russians, Ministry of Health (Moscow), 23 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020.

<https://minzdrav.gov.ru/news/2020/03/23/13564-rekomendatsii-minzdrava-rossii-po-profilaktike-koronavirusnoy-infeksii-dlya-rossiyan-starshego-vozrasta>

<sup>4894</sup> Address to the Nation, President of Russia (Moscow), 25 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/speeches/63061>



On 26 March 2020, the Cabinet of the Russian Federation passed Order No. 742-r, approving a special skills-based training program for citizens over 50 years of age to take place until 2024.<sup>4896</sup> According to the order, the program aims to improve the employment prospects of individuals of pre-retirement age and to ensure that their skills are in line with the job market.<sup>4897</sup>

On 1 April 2020, the State Duma adopted amendments to the federal laws “On Information, Information Technologies and the Protection of Information” and “On Circulation of Medicines” to allow for the remote sale of medicines and health consultations.<sup>4898</sup> Dmitry Morozov, Chairman of the Health Protection Committee, stated, “[t]his, of course, will greatly help older people over 65 - they are recommended to be in home quarantine. It is very important for them to get a doctor’s consultation without coming to the clinic.”<sup>4899</sup>

On 7 April 2020, the Ministry of Labor passed an order ““On approval of the detailed schedule for the implementation of the state program of the Russian Federation Social Support of Citizens’ for 2020 and for the planning period 2021 and 2022.”<sup>4900</sup> The program reaffirmed the need to create conditions to raise the material and social status of elderly citizens.<sup>4901</sup>

On 22 April 2020, First Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Committee on Social Policy Valery Ryazansky sent a letter to the Ministry of Sports in which he proposed to initiate remote physical exercise programs for the elderly to be broadcast via Match TV and Channel One, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4902</sup> According to Senator Ryazansky, the Ministry of Sports agreed with the proposal.<sup>4903</sup>

On 30 April 2020, President Putin held a meeting with the participants of the nationwide campaign We Are Together, which aims to support social sector organizations.<sup>4904</sup> President Putin emphasized the need for social institutions to take care of the elderly and asked the Government to “determine as quickly as possible the procedure for payments” to employees of social institutions that support the elderly,

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<sup>4895</sup> Address to the Nation, President of Russia (Moscow), 25 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/speeches/63061>

<sup>4896</sup> The government approved a special training program for citizens 50+, The Future of Russia: National Projects - TASS (Moscow), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futurerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/pravitelstvo-utverdilo-novuu-programmu-obucenia-grazdan-stare-50-let>; A new version of the program of vocational training and additional vocational education for older citizens was approved, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 27 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://government.ru/docs/39287/>

<sup>4897</sup> Order of March 26, 2020 No. 742-r, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 26 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/rqZDEPeEA5IISzxDlzF3wjkyZgbcabGk.pdf>

<sup>4898</sup> State Duma has adopted a law on the online sale of medicines, including prescriptions, under emergency conditions, State Duma (Moscow), 1 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020 <http://www.komitet2-2.km.duma.gov.ru/Novosti-Komiteta/item/21895836/>

<sup>4899</sup> The Health Protection Committee spoke about the most important measures to fight infections, State Duma (Moscow), 30 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://www.komitet2-2.km.duma.gov.ru/Novosti-Komiteta/item/21875128/>

<sup>4900</sup> Detailed schedule for the implementation of the state program "Social support of citizens" for 2020 and for the planning period of 2021 and 2022, Ministry of Labor (Moscow), 7 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/docs/mintrud/orders/1392>

<sup>4901</sup> Detailed schedule for the implementation of the state program "Social support of citizens" for 2020 and for the planning period of 2021 and 2022, Ministry of Labor (Moscow), 7 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://mintrud.gov.ru/docs/mintrud/orders/1392>

<sup>4902</sup> Senator asks the Ministry of Sports to launch exercises for the elderly on Match TV during self-isolation, TASS (Moscow), 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/8306229>

<sup>4903</sup> Senator asks the Ministry of Sports to launch exercises for the elderly on Match TV during self-isolation, TASS (Moscow), 22 April 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://tass.ru/obschestvo/8306229>

<sup>4904</sup> Meeting with participants in nationwide campaign We Are Together, President of Russia (Moscow), 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63294>

particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4905</sup> Following President Putin's formal request, on 11 May 2020, on 18 May 2020 the Government approved more than RUB7.6 billion in payments to social workers from the Government Reserve Fund, including caregivers for the elderly.<sup>4906</sup> In a follow-up call on 26 June 2020, the office of President Putin announced that the We Are Together campaign set up a 24/7 hotline to help the elderly and disabled people to register their requests for aid and thanked the campaign's organizers for their efforts to support Russians during the pandemic.<sup>4907</sup>

On 1 May 2020, the Russian government launched several short video lessons on the website stopkoronavirus.ru intended to "help diversify the life of older Russians in self-isolation and...inspire users to call their elderly relatives more often."<sup>4908</sup> This initiative aims to support the digital literacy of seniors and encourage social connection.

On 17 May 2020, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation announced an extension to a pilot program designed to award grants to private clinics that provide free healthcare services to the elderly.<sup>4909</sup> According to the decree, "[t]he competitive selection of private medical organizations for receiving grants in the form of subsidies from the federal budget for the provision of medical and social services to citizens aged 65 and over has been extended until June 15."<sup>4910</sup> This will allow a larger number of private medical institutions to participate in the selection.<sup>4911</sup>

On 20 May 2020, the Head of the State Duma Committee on Labor, Social Policy and Veterans Affairs Yaroslav Nilov confirmed a set of proposed initiatives to relax the government's restrictions on early retirement.<sup>4912</sup> According to Deputy Nilov, the proposal was included as a COVID-19 crisis measure in a bill drafted and sent for Government approval by the Ministry of Economic

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<sup>4905</sup> Meeting with participants in nationwide campaign We Are Together, President of Russia (Moscow), 30 April 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63294>

<sup>4906</sup> The Government allocates over 7.6 billion roubles for additional payments to social workers, Government of Russia (Moscow), 18 May 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://government.ru/en/docs/39697/>

<sup>4907</sup> Meeting with participants in the We Are Together campaign, President of Russia (Moscow), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63569>

<sup>4908</sup> Older people will be able to master the Internet with the help of online lessons, The Future of Russia: National Projects – TASS (Moscow), 1 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/pozilye-ludi-smogu-osvoit-internet-pri-pomosi-onlajn-urokov>

<sup>4909</sup> The Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation has extended the competition for private clinics for grants to provide services to the elderly (Moscow), 17 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/kabmin-rf-prodlil-konkurs-dla-castnyh-klinik-na-granty-dla-okazania-uslug-pozilym-ludam>

<sup>4910</sup> The Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation has extended the competition for private clinics for grants to provide services to the elderly (Moscow), 17 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/kabmin-rf-prodlil-konkurs-dla-castnyh-klinik-na-granty-dla-okazania-uslug-pozilym-ludam>

<sup>4911</sup> The Cabinet of Ministers of the Russian Federation has extended the competition for private clinics for grants to provide services to the elderly (Moscow), 17 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/kabmin-rf-prodlil-konkurs-dla-castnyh-klinik-na-granty-dla-okazania-uslug-pozilym-ludam>

<sup>4912</sup> State Duma supported the idea of easing conditions for early pensions, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow), 20 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://rg.ru/2020/05/20/v-gosdume-podderzhali-ideiu-o-smiagchenii-uslovij-dlia-dosrochnyh-pensij.html>

Development.<sup>4913</sup> The proposed measures intend to offer unemployed individuals who are within three years of retirement age the opportunity to retire early.<sup>4914</sup>

On 25 May 2020, Deputy Nilov stated that a bill had been submitted to the State Duma proposing to lower the age of eligibility for fixed pension payments from 80 to 75 years of age.<sup>4915</sup> The Bill No. 961691-7 aimed to “amend the said Federal Law, according to which the right to establish an increase in the amount of 100 [per cent] of the fixed payment to the old-age insurance pension is granted to persons who have reached the age of 75 years.”<sup>4916</sup> The proposed bill aims to support the financial security of the elderly with attention to health needs related to age.

On 31 May 2020, Prime Minister Mishustin announced monthly compensation for those who, during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided temporary care and support to vulnerable populations such as the elderly.<sup>4917</sup> Prime Minister Mishustin said that monthly payments of RUB12,130 per person would be sent between 1 April 2020 and 30 June 2020 to those who helped provide temporarily care for the elderly.<sup>4918</sup>

On 15 June 2020, the Ministry of Sports announced a partnership with the Ministry of Sports of the Orenburg Region and the Union of Pensioners of Russia to deliver an online series of sports programs designed for the elderly to exercise at home during the COVID-19 crisis.<sup>4919</sup> The initiative supports physical activity of seniors.

In the All-Russia Vote that took place between 25 June and 1 July 2020, changes to the Russian Constitution proposed and published by the State Duma on 14 March 2020 were confirmed by public ballot.<sup>4920</sup> The changes included amendments relating to the provision of healthcare and the elderly population.<sup>4921</sup> For instance, Article 72 was amended to add the “obligatory coordination of healthcare issues, ensuring the provision of affordable and high-quality medical care, preserving and strengthening public health, creating conditions for a healthy lifestyle and fostering a culture of a responsible attitude of citizens to their health; social protection, including social security.”<sup>4922</sup> Article 132 was updated to mandate that local government bodies ensure the “availability of medical

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<sup>4913</sup> State Duma supported the idea of easing conditions for early pensions, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow), 20 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://rg.ru/2020/05/20/v-gosdume-podderzhali-ideiu-o-smiagchenii-uslovij-dlia-dosrochnyh-pensij.html>

<sup>4914</sup> State Duma supported the idea of easing conditions for early pensions, Rossiyskaya Gazeta (Moscow), 20 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://rg.ru/2020/05/20/v-gosdume-podderzhali-ideiu-o-smiagchenii-uslovij-dlia-dosrochnyh-pensij.html>

<sup>4915</sup> State Duma proposed to increase the fixed pension supplement from the age of 75, The Future of Russia: National Projects - TASS (Moscow), 25 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/v-gosdume-predlozili-povysit-fiksirovannuu-doplatu-k-pensii-s-75-let>

<sup>4916</sup> Bill No. 961691-7 On amendments to the Federal Law "On Insurance Pensions, State Duma (Moscow), 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://sozd.duma.gov.ru/bill/674572-7>

<sup>4917</sup> Mikhail Mishustin approved the rules for special payments for volunteering during the coronavirus, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 31 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39800/>

<sup>4918</sup> Mikhail Mishustin approved the rules for special payments for volunteering during the coronavirus, Government of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 31 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39800/>

<sup>4919</sup> A Complex of Sports Exercises for Elderly Russians Appeared on the Internet, RIA56 (Orenburg), 16 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://ria56.ru/posts/kompleks-sportivnyx-uprazhnenij-dlya-pozhilyx-rossiyan-poyavilsya-v-internete.htm>

<sup>4920</sup> Full text of amendments to the Constitution: what is changing? The State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48045/>

<sup>4921</sup> Full text of amendments to the Constitution: what is changing? The State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48045/>

<sup>4922</sup> Full text of amendments to the Constitution: what is changing? The State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48045/>

care.”<sup>4923</sup> Article 75 was updated to guarantee that the “system of pension provision for citizens is being formed on the basis of the principles of universality, fairness and solidarity between generations and its effective functioning is supported, and pensions are indexed at least once a year in accordance with the procedure established by federal law.”<sup>4924</sup>

On 26 June 2020, Minister of Health Mikhail Murashko stated in a report published by the Ministry of Health that 44 new geriatric centers opened in 2019 in order to expand the elderly population’s access to healthcare.<sup>4925</sup>

On 9 July 2020, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection and the Pension Fund of Russia supported the 10<sup>th</sup> All-Russian Computer Championships for Retirees.<sup>4926</sup> According to Senator Ryazansky, “with an increase in computer literacy, the quality of life of the older generation is also growing. Over the past ten years, computer technology has become an integral part of the life of Russian pensioners. Self-isolation has proven that they can maintain a decent quality of life even in such ‘extreme’ conditions” brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>4927</sup>

On 6 May 2020, President Putin signed Resolution No. 120-rp, aimed at allocating RUB3 million to the Presidential Grants Fund in order to fund the development of civil society.<sup>4928</sup> In turn, the Presidential Grants Fund initiated a special contest among non-profit civil society groups focused in part on granting funds to organizations with projects designed to protect and promote the health of the elderly.<sup>4929</sup>

For instance, on 19 June 2020, the Regional Council of Veterans of the Gubkinsky Urban District announced that it had received a grant of an unspecified amount from the Presidential Grants Fund for teaching senior citizens about the need to lead a healthy lifestyle.<sup>4930</sup> Called the Active Longevity Club, the Regional Council said that they intend to use the grant to create promotional materials about “proper nutrition, physiotherapy exercises and the rejection of certain bad habits.”<sup>4931</sup>

On 21 July 2020, President Putin signed a Decree “On the national development goals of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2030,” which emphasized “improving the standard of living of citizens and creating comfortable conditions for their living.”<sup>4932</sup> Among other targets, the Decree pledged to “a) [preserve] the population, health and well-being of people; b) [create] opportunities for self-realization and development of talents; [and] c) [create a] comfortable and safe living

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<sup>4923</sup> Full text of amendments to the Constitution: what is changing? The State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48045/>

<sup>4924</sup> Full text of amendments to the Constitution: what is changing? The State Duma and Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation (Moscow), 14 March 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://duma.gov.ru/news/48045/>

<sup>4925</sup> The Ministry of Health opened six times more geriatric centers in 2019 than planned, The Future of Russia: National Projects - TASS (Moscow), 26 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://futuraerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/minzdrav-otkryl-v-2019-godu-v-sest-raz-bolse-geriatricheskih-centrov-cem-planiroval>

<sup>4926</sup> Russian pensioners take active longevity online, Sprrt.ru (Kazan), 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <http://sprrt.ru/news/21848/>

<sup>4927</sup> Russian pensioners take active longevity online, Sprrt.ru (Kazan), 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 July 2020. <http://sprrt.ru/news/21848/>

<sup>4928</sup> Order of the President of the Russian Federation dated 06.05.2020 No. 120-rp, President of Russia (Moscow), 6 May 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/45510>

<sup>4929</sup> Announcement 15062020.pdf - Competition Documentation - 2020 Special Competition, Presidential Grants Fund (Moscow), 15 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://xn--80afcdbalict6afooklqi5o.xn--p1ai/public/contest/index>

<sup>4930</sup> District Council of Veterans Receives Presidential Grant, Prostor31.ru (Gubkin), 19 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://prostor31.ru/obshestvo/socialnaya-politika/6513.html>

<sup>4931</sup> District Council of Veterans Receives Presidential Grant, Prostor31.ru (Gubkin), 19 June 2020. Access Date: 22 July 2020. <https://prostor31.ru/obshestvo/socialnaya-politika/6513.html>

<sup>4932</sup> Decree on the national development goals of Russia until 2030, President of Russia (Moscow), 21 July 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/63728>

environment” through targets such as improving living conditions, increasing the volume of housing construction, improving the quality of the urban environment and ensuring that pension payments are not lower than inflation.<sup>4933</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the Press Service of the Ministry of Labor announced the planned implementation of a pilot project titled “The Needs of the Elderly Population in Medical and Social Sciences.”<sup>4934</sup> The project resulted from a study run by the World Bank and other stakeholders, which found access to quality medical care to be a major problem for the elderly population in Russia.<sup>4935</sup> In the second half of 2020, the project plans to recruit private clinics in 18 federal subjects of Russia to act as “patrons” to the elderly population in the designated pilot regions by coordinating bedside visits, conducting special examinations and performing basic medical treatment.<sup>4936</sup>

Russia has taken multiple policy actions to promote active ageing, such as initiatives that support long-term care and preventive care. However, Russia has taken no policy actions towards the promotion of healthy ageing in terms of supporting functional ability. Russia has also not taken action to promote active ageing in terms of social, political, cultural, and/or economic inclusion.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analysts: Ian Stansbury and Miles Harrison*

### **Saudi Arabia: -1**

Saudi Arabia has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 28 January 2020, the Saudi Prince of Riyadh reported to the press regarding the Fourth International Alzheimer’s Conference and acknowledged the impact of Alzheimer’s disease on the elderly.<sup>4937</sup>

Saudi Arabia has taken verbal action towards promoting healthy ageing nor active ageing through policy measures. No stronger actions were registered for this report after searching news sources, government publications, ministries, and international organizations.<sup>4938</sup>

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Zarlasht Jamal*

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<sup>4933</sup> Decree on the national development goals of Russia until 2030, President of Russia (Moscow), 21 July 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/63728>

<sup>4934</sup> Affordable help: how private clinics connect to the health care for the elderly under compulsory medical insurance, Future of Russia: National Projects – TASS (Moscow), 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/dostupnaa-pomos-kak-castnye-kliniki-podklucatsa-k-patronazu-pozilyh-po-oms>

<sup>4935</sup> Affordable help: how private clinics connect to the health care for the elderly under compulsory medical insurance, Future of Russia: National Projects – TASS (Moscow), 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/dostupnaa-pomos-kak-castnye-kliniki-podklucatsa-k-patronazu-pozilyh-po-oms>

<sup>4936</sup> Affordable help: how private clinics connect to the health care for the elderly under compulsory medical insurance, Future of Russia: National Projects – TASS (Moscow), 25 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://futerussia.gov.ru/nacionalnye-proekty/dostupnaa-pomos-kak-castnye-kliniki-podklucatsa-k-patronazu-pozilyh-po-oms>

<sup>4937</sup> The Launch of the Fourth International Alzheimer’s Conference, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 28 January 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <http://www.alriyadh.com/1801173>.

<sup>4938</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en>, <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en>, <https://www.arabnews.com>, and <https://www.sesric.org/>

### **South Africa: –1**

South Africa has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 7 October 2019, Deputy Minister of Social Development Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu hosted an outreach initiative in Midvaal to promote cancer awareness.<sup>4939</sup> The program aimed to encourage early diagnosis and intervention, through educating the community and providing free early screening for certain cancers, which supports healthy ageing and improves health literacy.<sup>4940</sup>

On 21 October 2019, Minister of Social Development Lindiwe Zulu launched the Active Ageing Programme in Port Elizabeth, which takes place from 21 to 25 October 2019.<sup>4941</sup> The week-long programme aims to promote independence, improve quality of life, and encourage social and cultural inclusion older persons.<sup>4942</sup> The program was created through a partnership between the Department of Social Development and the South Africans Older Persons Forum as a response to South Africa's Older Persons Act 13 of 2006 and the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing.<sup>4943</sup>

On 3 February 2020, South African Human Rights Commissioner Bokankatla Malatji visited the Mpumalanga province from 3 to 6 February 2020 to promote the rights of older persons and people with disabilities and encourage dialogue about their inclusion in society.<sup>4944</sup>

South Africa has taken some action to promote active ageing through their health promotion events, which address health literacy as well as social and cultural inclusion. However, it has not made substantive progress on the promotion of healthy and active ageing through policy measures.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of –1.

*Analyst: Areej Malik*

### **Turkey: –1**

Turkey has not complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

From 19 to 20 October 2019, at the G20 Health Ministers' Meeting in Okayama, Japan, Deputy Minister of Health Emine Alp Meşe announced that Turkey would adopt a multi-sectoral approach

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<sup>4939</sup> Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Pinkdrive promote Cancer Awareness in Midvaal, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-hendrietta-bogopane-zulu-and-pinkdrive-promote-cancer-awareness-midvaal-7>

<sup>4940</sup> Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Pinkdrive promote Cancer Awareness in Midvaal, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/deputy-minister-hendrietta-bogopane-zulu-and-pinkdrive-promote-cancer-awareness-midvaal-7>

<sup>4941</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens 2019 Active Ageing Programme in Port Elizabeth, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nelson-mandela-bay-municipality-18-oct-2019-0000>

<sup>4942</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens 2019 Active Ageing Programme in Port Elizabeth, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nelson-mandela-bay-municipality-18-oct-2019-0000>

<sup>4943</sup> Minister Lindiwe Zulu opens 2019 Active Ageing Programme in Port Elizabeth, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/nelson-mandela-bay-municipality-18-oct-2019-0000>

<sup>4944</sup> Human Rights Commission assess the observance of the rights of people with disabilities and older persons in Mpumalanga, The Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 2 February 2020. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/commissioner-adv-bokankatla-malatji-conducts-provincial-visit-mpumalanga-3-6-feb-3-feb-2020>

to deal with issues of chronic diseases and elderly care while continuing “to increase coverage and quality of health services.”<sup>4945</sup>

From 29 to 31 October 2019, at the sixth Turkish Medical World Council, the health ministers of Turkey and Namibia signed an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of health.<sup>4946</sup> The council organized in collaboration with the Presidency of Turkey, Ministry of Health and TÜSEB, and HIMSS’19 Eurasia Organization to bring together health ministers of various countries in the region to exchange knowledge and experience.<sup>4947</sup>

From 2 to 6 March 2020, the International Institute on Ageing worked with the Turkish Geriatrics Society and Hacettepe University Application and Research Centre of Geriatric Sciences to host the seventh on-site training programme in Gerontology and Geriatrics.<sup>4948</sup> The event brought participants from various professions, including social workers, doctors, and nurses, to discuss “demographic, social, psychological, ethical and medical issues on ageing.”<sup>4949</sup>

Turkey has reaffirmed its commitment to improving health services and geriatric care. However, it has not implemented substantive policy initiatives to address healthy and active ageing.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Zarlasht Jamal*

### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 30 June 2019, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for Health and Social Care announced the creation of the UK Longevity Council comprising healthcare experts, business leaders and civil society organisations.<sup>4950</sup> The Council aims to advise the UK government on policies to ensure healthy and active ageing.<sup>4951</sup>

On 4 July 2019, the House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee published a report entitled ‘Social care funding: time to end a national scandal’ detailing funding deficiencies in adult social care

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<sup>4945</sup> G20 Health Ministers’ Meeting, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,58531/g20-health-ministers-meeting.html>

<sup>4946</sup> 6th Turkish Medical World Council in Istanbul, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,58532/6th-turkish-medical-world-council-in-istanbul.html>

<sup>4947</sup> 6th Turkish Medical World Council in Istanbul, Ministry of Health (Ankara) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,58532/6th-turkish-medical-world-council-in-istanbul.html>

<sup>4948</sup> ‘In-Situ’ Training Programme in Gerontology and Geriatrics, Ankara, Turkey, The International Institute on Ageing, UN-Malta (INIA)(Malta) March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.inia.org.mt/event/in-situ-training-programme-in-gerontology-and-geriatrics-ankara-turkey>

<sup>4949</sup> ‘In-Situ’ Training Programme in Gerontology and Geriatrics, Ankara, Turkey, The International Institute on Ageing, UN-Malta (INIA)(Malta) March 2020. Access Date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.inia.org.mt/event/in-situ-training-programme-in-gerontology-and-geriatrics-ankara-turkey>

<sup>4950</sup> Experts to help UK champion ageing society opportunities, Government Digital Service (London) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/experts-to-help-uk-champion-ageing-society-opportunities>

<sup>4951</sup> Experts to help UK champion ageing society opportunities, Government Digital Service (London) 30 June 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/experts-to-help-uk-champion-ageing-society-opportunities>

programmes across England.<sup>4952</sup> The objective is to call attention to the impact of insufficient funding on healthy ageing efforts by the National Health Service and private caregivers and compel the UK government to publish a white paper detailing its plan to resolve funding issues.<sup>4953</sup>

On 5 July 2019, the All Parliamentary Party Group for Ageing and Older People published a report on its Inquiry into Decent and Accessible Homes for Older People examining the connection between poor housing standards and healthy ageing and listing 13 recommendations to improve housing for the elderly.<sup>4954</sup> The report aims to incorporate its recommendations into the UK government's housing policies to improve the mental, physical and social well-being of elderly residents.<sup>4955</sup>

On 25 July 2019, the House of Lords Science and Technology Committee launched an inquiry to examine the application of science and technology on improving the health of elderly individuals and supporting older persons with poor health.<sup>4956</sup> The goal is to determine effective practices for accomplishing the UK government's Industrial Strategy mission of increasing the national lifespan by five years by 2035.<sup>4957</sup>

On 9 September 2019, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and Department for Health and Social Care announced a joint GBP133 million investment in research by the National Health Service and Centres for Excellence in Oxford, Coventry and London.<sup>4958</sup> The investment aims to support the development of new treatments for arthritis, cancer, dementia and Parkinson's, which affect senior citizens, and improve healthy ageing.<sup>4959</sup>

On 16 September 2019, Innovate UK announced a GBP98 million investment competition for businesses and public sector entities to develop products and services that support elderly physical

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<sup>4952</sup> Social care funding: time to end a national scandal — 7th Report of Session 2017-19 I, House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee (London) 4 June 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldeconaf/392/392.pdf>

<sup>4953</sup> Social care funding: time to end a national scandal — 7th Report of Session 2017-19 I, House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee (London) 4 June 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201719/ldselect/ldeconaf/392/392.pdf>

<sup>4954</sup> Inquiry into decent and accessible homes for older people, All Parliamentary Party Group for Ageing and Older People (London) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/appg/appg-for-ageing-and-older-people---report-on-decent-and-accessible-homes-for-older-people.pdf>

<sup>4955</sup> Inquiry into decent and accessible homes for older people, All Parliamentary Party Group for Ageing and Older People (London) 5 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/globalassets/age-uk/documents/reports-and-publications/appg/appg-for-ageing-and-older-people---report-on-decent-and-accessible-homes-for-older-people.pdf>

<sup>4956</sup> Ageing: Science, Technology and Healthy Living — Lords Committee launches a new inquiry, U.K. Parliament (London) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/ageing-inquiry-launch/>

<sup>4957</sup> Ageing: Science, Technology and Healthy Living — Lords Committee launches a new inquiry, U.K. Parliament (London) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2017/ageing-inquiry-launch/>

<sup>4958</sup> Government to invest over 130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Government Publishing Service (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>

<sup>4959</sup> Government to invest over 130 million in new tech to tackle cancer and debilitating illnesses, Government Publishing Service (London) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-invest-over-130-million-in-new-tech-to-tackle-cancer-and-debilitating-illnesses>



activity, the health of older workers and the design of age-friendly homes.<sup>4960</sup> The competition aims to support the UK government's mission of increasing the national lifespan by five years by 2035.<sup>4961</sup>

On 1 October 2019, Public Health England and the Centre for Ageing Better published a statement entitled "A consensus on healthy ageing" listing five commitments by signatory organisations: developing preventive healthcare strategies, removing access barriers to opportunities for the elderly, ensuring good homes, narrowing inequalities between elderly populations across demographics and challenging ageist practices.<sup>4962</sup> The objective is to coordinate the activities of public and private organizations working to ensure healthy ageing by establishing common policy goals.<sup>4963</sup>

On 28 October 2019, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy announced an investment of GBP33.9 million over five years into the development of autonomous robotic systems for the care of elderly persons.<sup>4964</sup> The investment aims to ensure autonomous systems incorporate principles of "respect, fairness and quality" in the care of older persons in homes and hospitals.<sup>4965</sup>

On 4 November 2019, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Thérèse Coffey announced an increase to basic and new State Pensions by 3.9 per cent beginning on 6 April 2020.<sup>4966</sup> The increase aims to raise retirement incomes of elderly persons and support their active participation in society.<sup>4967</sup>

On 23 January 2020, the National Health Service (NHS) announced the availability of Urgent Community Response Teams beginning in April 2020 to provide older people at risk of hospitalization with access to healthcare professionals within two hours of a request.<sup>4968</sup> The urgent community response teams will also make available "tailored packages of intermediate care, or reablement services" for older persons within a two-day standard, which will help treat older persons

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<sup>4960</sup> Supporting healthy and active later life: apply for funding, Government Digital Service (London) 16 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/supporting-healthy-and-active-later-life-apply-for-funding>

<sup>4961</sup> The Grand Challenge missions, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 November 2017. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges/industrial-strategy-the-grand-challenges>

<sup>4962</sup> A consensus on healthy ageing, Public Health England (London) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/839709/Healthy\\_Ageing\\_Consensus\\_Statement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839709/Healthy_Ageing_Consensus_Statement.pdf)

<sup>4963</sup> A consensus on healthy ageing, Public Health England (London) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/839709/Healthy\\_Ageing\\_Consensus\\_Statement.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/839709/Healthy_Ageing_Consensus_Statement.pdf)

<sup>4964</sup> Care robots could revolutionise UK care system and provide staff extra support, Government Digital Service (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-robots-could-revolutionise-uk-care-system-and-provide-staff-extra-support>

<sup>4965</sup> Care robots could revolutionise UK care system and provide staff extra support, Government Digital Service (London) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/care-robots-could-revolutionise-uk-care-system-and-provide-staff-extra-support>

<sup>4966</sup> Welfare and Pensions Update: Written statement — HCWS74, U.K. Parliament (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-11-04/HCWS74/>

<sup>4967</sup> Welfare and Pensions Update: Written statement — HCWS74, U.K. Parliament (London) 4 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-11-04/HCWS74/>

<sup>4968</sup> Rapid NHS response teams to help people stay well at home, National Health Service England (London) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/01/rapid-nhs-response-teams-to-help-people-stay-well-at-home/>

in their own home and support their independence.<sup>4969</sup> The creation of National Health Service response teams aims to fulfil the National Health Service’s Long-Term Plan objective of supporting England’s ageing population, particularly those with urgent care needs.<sup>4970</sup>

On 15 May 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care published the care home support package.<sup>4971</sup> The Coronavirus (COVID-19): Care Home Support Package focuses on the prevention and control of COVID-19 in all registered care homes, “reducing workforce movement between care homes and minimizing risk for care workers,” improve protective personal equipment (PPE) supply and so on.<sup>4972</sup> To support this, the government announced on 13 May 2020 that an additional GBP600 million to support care providers through the “social care infection control fund.”<sup>4973</sup>

On 16 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care published “COVID-19: our action plan for adult social care,” which addresses health and social care for the most vulnerable in society, including seniors.<sup>4974</sup> The plan includes outlines the government’s four pillars approach, which include “controlling the spread of infection”; “supporting the workforce”; “supporting independence, supporting people at the end of their lives, and responding to individual needs”; and “supporting local authorities and the providers of care.”<sup>4975</sup> This initiative sets out an action plan to support “all the settings and contexts in which people receive adult care,” which includes “people’s own homes, residential care homes and nursing homes, and other community settings.”<sup>4976</sup>

On 18 September 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care published the “Adult social care: our COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021,” which outlines how government, NHS organizations and local authorities can support social care between winter 2020 to 2021.<sup>4977</sup> The plan outlines key elements that impact the care home sector, including ensuring the supply of PPE for care providers, supporting COVID-19 testing for people discharged from the hospital to a care home,

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<sup>4969</sup> Rapid NHS response teams to help people stay well at home, National Health Service England (London) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/01/rapid-nhs-response-teams-to-help-people-stay-well-at-home/>

<sup>4970</sup> Rapid NHS response teams to help people stay well at home, National Health Service England (London) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/01/rapid-nhs-response-teams-to-help-people-stay-well-at-home/>

<sup>4971</sup> Adult social care: our COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 18 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021/adult-social-care-our-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021>

<sup>4972</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): care home support package, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 9 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-care-home-support-package>

<sup>4973</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): care home support package, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 9 July 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-care-homes/coronavirus-covid-19-care-home-support-package>

<sup>4974</sup> Our action plan for adult social care, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 16 April 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan/covid-19-our-action-plan-for-adult-social-care>

<sup>4975</sup> Our action plan for adult social care, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 16 April 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan/covid-19-our-action-plan-for-adult-social-care>

<sup>4976</sup> Our action plan for adult social care, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 16 April 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-adult-social-care-action-plan/covid-19-our-action-plan-for-adult-social-care>

<sup>4977</sup> Adult social care: our COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 18 September 2020. Access Date: November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021/adult-social-care-our-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021>

“[collaborating] across health and care services” and digital support so that care home staff can remotely aid people in their care.<sup>4978</sup>

The United Kingdom has taken policy actions to promote healthy and active ageing through preventive health care measures, investments towards the development of age-friendly homes which healthy ageing in terms of functional ability, and improved pensions to support elderly people’s active participation in society. However, the United Kingdom has not taken policy action to address the economic and/or political inclusion of older people.

Thus, United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Arjun Singh*

### **United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measure to address health promotion.

On 9 July 2019, Deputy Secretary Eric Hargan of the US Department of Health and Human Services introduced the Quality Summit.<sup>4979</sup> The summit aims to encourage dialogue on how to evaluate and improve the current programs the Department of Health and Human Services offers to enhance quality of care for patients.<sup>4980</sup>

On 12 September 2019, through the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, the US Department of Health and Human Services pledged USD351 million to 56 states, territories, and non-profit organizations to improve maternal health outcomes.<sup>4981</sup> The department also awarded USD23 million in funding to create three new programs to support and promote maternal health.<sup>4982</sup>

On 18 September 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Health Resources and Services Administration donated USD85 million to approximately 300 healthcare centres.<sup>4983</sup> This

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<sup>4978</sup> Adult social care: our COVID-19 winter plan 2020 to 2021, Department of Health and Social Care (London), 18 September 2020. Access Date: November 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-coronavirus-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021/adult-social-care-our-covid-19-winter-plan-2020-to-2021>

<sup>4979</sup> HHS Announces Quality Summit to Streamline and Improve Quality Programs across Government, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/07/09/hhs-announces-quality-summit-streamline-improve-quality-programs-government.html>

<sup>4980</sup> HHS Announces Quality Summit to Streamline and Improve Quality Programs across Government, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/07/09/hhs-announces-quality-summit-streamline-improve-quality-programs-government.html>

<sup>4981</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

<sup>4982</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>

<sup>4983</sup> HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>

investment will help establish new infrastructure, expand oral health services, and improve the current services.<sup>4984</sup> It encourages early detection of oral diseases to prevent future health issues.<sup>4985</sup>

On 19 September 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services announced the National Youth Sports Strategy to encourage youth participation in sports, promote access, and raise awareness of the advantages of playing sports, which promotes physical activity and healthy ageing early in life.<sup>4986</sup> This strategy was created in response to President Trump's call for a national strategy to engage more youth in sports.<sup>4987</sup> Through the strategy's new grants, there will be more opportunities for children, especially those from marginalized communities, to participate in sports.<sup>4988</sup>

On 1 October 2019, the National Institutes of Health, through the National Institute on Ageing, pledged over USD73 million over the next five years toward two research centers, specifically the "Open Drug Discovery Center for Alzheimer's Disease"<sup>4989</sup> and the "Indiana University School of Medicine Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery center,"<sup>4990</sup> which aim to support the research and development of drugs towards Alzheimer's disease.<sup>4991</sup>

On 3 October 2019, the Trump administration announced their plan to enhance the Medicare program.<sup>4992</sup> The effective aspects of the program will remain in place and the administration will include new market-based approaches to healthcare to improve the quality of care for senior citizens.<sup>4993</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality pledged USD16 million to enhance primary care in relation to

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<sup>4984</sup> HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>

<sup>4985</sup> HHS Awards over \$85 Million to Help Health Centers Expand Access to Oral Health Care, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/18/hhs-awards-over-85-million-help-health-centers-expand-access-oral-healthcare.html>

<sup>4986</sup> HHS Releases First Federal Strategy to Increase Youth Sports Participation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/19/hhs-releases-first-federal-strategy-increase-youth-sports-participation.html>

<sup>4987</sup> HHS Releases First Federal Strategy to Increase Youth Sports Participation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/19/hhs-releases-first-federal-strategy-increase-youth-sports-participation.html>

<sup>4988</sup> HHS Releases First Federal Strategy to Increase Youth Sports Participation, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 19 September 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/19/hhs-releases-first-federal-strategy-increase-youth-sports-participation.html>

<sup>4989</sup> NIH-funded translational research centers to speed, diversify Alzheimer's drug discovery, National Institute on Ageing (Bethesda) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/nih-funded-translational-research-centers-speed-diversify-alzheimers-drug-discovery>

<sup>4990</sup> NIH-funded translational research centers to speed, diversify Alzheimer's drug discovery, National Institute on Ageing (Bethesda) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/nih-funded-translational-research-centers-speed-diversify-alzheimers-drug-discovery>

<sup>4991</sup> NIH-funded translational research centers to speed, diversify Alzheimer's drug discovery, National Institute on Ageing (Bethesda) 1 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.nia.nih.gov/news/nih-funded-translational-research-centers-speed-diversify-alzheimers-drug-discovery>

<sup>4992</sup> Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors, The White House (Washington) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-improving-medicare-nations-seniors/>

<sup>4993</sup> Executive Order on Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors, The White House (Washington) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/executive-order-protecting-improving-medicare-nations-seniors/>

unhealthy alcohol use.<sup>4994</sup> The six grant receivers will use evidence-based interventions at more than 700 healthcare centres to promote healthy living.<sup>4995</sup>

On 2 January 2020, the Trump administration and the Food and Drug Administration banned certain e-cigarette flavours to regulate and prevent the use of e-cigarettes among teenagers.<sup>4996</sup>

On 21 April 2020, the US Department of Health and Human Services and the Administration for Community Living pledged USD955 million in grants to support actions related to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.<sup>4997</sup> These grants will finance actions to support older adults and prevent the spread of COVID-19.<sup>4998</sup> Some of these actions include homecare services, meal delivery and resources for information and support.<sup>4999</sup>

On 30 April 2020, the Trump administration reiterated their commitment to keep older adults safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5000</sup> Through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the administration devoted USD81 million from the CARES Act to ensure more frequent inspections of nursing homes.<sup>5001</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the US Department of Health and Human Services bookmarked USD5 billion of the Provider Relief Fund to assist long-term care facilities strengthen their response to COVID-

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<sup>4994</sup> HHS Awards \$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients' Unhealthy Alcohol Use, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/22/hhs-awards-16-million-help-primary-care-practices-address-unhealthy-alcohol-use.html>

<sup>4995</sup> HHS Awards \$16 Million to Help Primary Care Practices Address Patients' Unhealthy Alcohol Use, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/22/hhs-awards-16-million-help-primary-care-practices-address-unhealthy-alcohol-use.html>

<sup>4996</sup> US announces countrywide ban on flavoured e-cigs, BBC (Washington) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 18 February 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50978321>

<sup>4997</sup> HHS announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>

<sup>4998</sup> HHS announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>

<sup>4999</sup> HHS announces Nearly \$1 Billion in CARES Act Grants to Support Older Adults and People with Disabilities in the Community During the COVID-19 Emergency, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 21 April 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/21/hhs-announces-nearly-1-billion-cares-act-grants-support-older-adults-people-with-disabilities-community-during-covid-19-emergency.html>

<sup>5000</sup> President Donald J. Trump Remains Committed to Caring for Our Nation's Seniors During the Coronavirus Pandemic and Beyond, The White House (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-remains-committed-caring-nations-seniors-coronavirus-pandemic-beyond/>

<sup>5001</sup> President Donald J. Trump Remains Committed to Caring for Our Nation's Seniors During the Coronavirus Pandemic and Beyond, The White House (Washington) 30 April 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trump-remains-committed-caring-nations-seniors-coronavirus-pandemic-beyond/>

19.<sup>5002</sup> This funding aims to enhance services by hiring more staff and purchasing more personal protective equipment to improve infection control.<sup>5003</sup>

On 27 August 2020, the US Department of Health and Human Services distributed USD2.5 billion to nursing homes.<sup>5004</sup> This funding was provided through the Provider Relief Fund and was allocated to increase training, testing, access to personal protective equipment and hiring more staff.<sup>5005</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services guaranteed up to USD165 million to assist with the Money Follows the Person demonstration programs.<sup>5006</sup> This funding aims to help older adults move from care facilities to independent living.<sup>5007</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Trump administration decreased Medicaid insurance premiums to improve access to prescription drugs.<sup>5008</sup> The senior savings model for the new insurance plans will make insulin more affordable for older adults.<sup>5009</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services declared an update to the COVID-19 testing methodology for nursing homes based on the “positivity rate of their respective counties.”<sup>5010</sup> This initiative increases the frequency of COVID-19 testing for nursing home staff,

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<sup>5002</sup> Trump Administration Announces New Resources to Protect Nursing Home Residents Against COVID-19, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-announces-new-resources-protect-nursing-home-residents-against-covid-19>

<sup>5003</sup> Trump Administration Announces New Resources to Protect Nursing Home Residents Against COVID-19, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 22 July 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-announces-new-resources-protect-nursing-home-residents-against-covid-19>

<sup>5004</sup> Trump Administration Announces the Distribution of \$2.5 Billion to Nursing Homes for COVID-19 Relief Funding, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/27/trump-administration-announces-2-5-billion-to-nursing-homes-for-covid-19-relief-funding.html>

<sup>5005</sup> Trump Administration Announces the Distribution of \$2.5 Billion to Nursing Homes for COVID-19 Relief Funding, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (Washington) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/08/27/trump-administration-announces-2-5-billion-to-nursing-homes-for-covid-19-relief-funding.html>

<sup>5006</sup> CMS Announces New Federal Funding for 33 States to Support Transitioning Individuals from Nursing Homes to the Community, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-new-federal-funding-33-states-support-transitioning-individuals-nursing-homes>

<sup>5007</sup> CMS Announces New Federal Funding for 33 States to Support Transitioning Individuals from Nursing Homes to the Community, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 23 September 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-announces-new-federal-funding-33-states-support-transitioning-individuals-nursing-homes>

<sup>5008</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historically Low Medicare Advantage Premiums and New Payment Model to Make Insulin Affordable Again for Seniors, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-announces-historically-low-medicare-advantage-premiums-and-new-payment-model>

<sup>5009</sup> Trump Administration Announces Historically Low Medicare Advantage Premiums and New Payment Model to Make Insulin Affordable Again for Seniors, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/trump-administration-announces-historically-low-medicare-advantage-premiums-and-new-payment-model>

<sup>5010</sup> CMS Updates COVID-19 Testing Methodology for Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington), 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-updates-covid-19-testing-methodology-nursing-homes>

which aims to detect COVID-19 early to ensure that nursing home residents remain safe.<sup>5011</sup> The government has also pledged over USD21 billion to nursing homes to support testing and offsetting other costs.<sup>5012</sup>

The United States has taken some policy action to promote healthy and active ageing through adopting a life-course perspective towards health and policy measures taken towards preventive care and the promotion of active lifestyles, such as the e-cigarette ban, the National Youth Sports Strategy, and funding towards Alzheimer's research. However, the United States has not taken policy actions to address healthy ageing in terms of seniors' functional ability nor has it taken action to address social, political, economic, and/or cultural inclusion of older people.

Thus, the United States receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Areej Malik*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote healthy and active ageing through policy measures to address health promotion.

On 10 July 2019, the kick-off meeting for the Intgr@tencion project was held in Valladolid.<sup>5013</sup> This project, funded by the EU through the INTERREG VA Espana Portugal programme, aims to develop products and services to ensure that elderly citizens suffering from “autonomy loss, disability, or chronic conditions” are taken care of at home.<sup>5014</sup> These objectives will be achieved through the “development and piloting of a joint model of care and technology support provision.”<sup>5015</sup>

On 20 September 2019, Innovation to Market (I2M) announced a matchmaking event to be held in February 2020 to support organizations seeking to implement digital Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA) solutions but are unable to find relevant matches in the market.<sup>5016</sup> This program will connect healthcare organizations with unmet needs with digital AHA solutions offered by (primarily) tech companies.<sup>5017</sup>

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<sup>5011</sup> CMS Updates COVID-19 Testing Methodology for Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington), 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-updates-covid-19-testing-methodology-nursing-homes>

<sup>5012</sup> CMS Updates COVID-19 Testing Methodology for Nursing Homes, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Washington), 29 September 2020. Access Date: 17 November 2020. <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cms-updates-covid-19-testing-methodology-nursing-homes>

<sup>5013</sup> Integr@tención DEMO-Sessions showcasing innovative technological solutions to promote independent living (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent_en)

<sup>5014</sup> Integr@tención DEMO-Sessions showcasing innovative technological solutions to promote independent living (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent_en)

<sup>5015</sup> Integr@tención DEMO-Sessions showcasing innovative technological solutions to promote independent living (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/integr%20tenci%C3%B3n-demo-sessions-showcasing-innovative-technological-solutions-promote-independent_en)

<sup>5016</sup> Calling the most innovative organisations in Europe: Matchmaking sessions for Active and Healthy Ageing (Brussels) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/calling-most-innovative-organisations-europe-matchmaking-sessions-active-and-healthy-ageing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/calling-most-innovative-organisations-europe-matchmaking-sessions-active-and-healthy-ageing_en)

<sup>5017</sup> Calling the most innovative organisations in Europe: Matchmaking sessions for Active and Healthy Ageing (Brussels) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/calling-most-innovative-organisations-europe-matchmaking-sessions-active-and-healthy-ageing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/calling-most-innovative-organisations-europe-matchmaking-sessions-active-and-healthy-ageing_en)

On 7 October 2019, the European Commission announced the launch of EU\_SHAFE (Europe Enabling Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments).<sup>5018</sup> Co-financed by INTERREG Europe and led by municipality of Bizkaya, this project strives to develop a comprehensive approach to “Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments” through the improvement of policies and practices in seven European regions.<sup>5019</sup> EU\_SHAFE will aim to create an inclusive ecosystem comprised of public authorities, European networks, user associations, and research professionals to work towards the development of community-based services that will help with healthy and active “ageing at home” across Europe.<sup>5020</sup>

On 19 October 2019, the Medical University of Lodz, Poland, announced its plan to run a pilot program dedicated to PhD candidates whose research addresses the biomedicine of AHA.<sup>5021</sup> The Medical University of Lodz holds a status of Lead Partner with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.<sup>5022</sup>

On 28 October 2019, the European Commission announced SoCaTel’s call to take part in their upcoming “Transforming Ageing” hackathon. SoCaTel is a European project which allows users, professionals, and public administrators to collaboratively partake in design of services related to dependence.<sup>5023</sup> Moving forward with the project, SoCaTel will organize a series of hackathons to promote the development of technologies to improve the accessibility of health and social care services in the home for elderly citizens.<sup>5024</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on AHA announced that they would reward organizations that have successfully implemented AHA innovations.<sup>5025</sup> The goal of these I2M Adoption Awards is to not only recognize the work of adopters and technological

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<sup>5018</sup> EU\_SHAFE is the new Interreg project for European age-friendly environments, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments_en)

<sup>5019</sup> EU\_SHAFE is the new Interreg project for European age-friendly environments, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments_en)

<sup>5020</sup> EU\_SHAFE is the new Interreg project for European age-friendly environments, European Commission (Brussels) 7 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eushafe-new-interreg-project-european-age-friendly-environments_en)

<sup>5021</sup> Medical University of Lodz (Poland) is dedicating its International Doctoral School to the subject of Active and healthy Ageing, European Commission (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/medical-university-lodz-poland-dedicating-its-international-doctoral-school-subject-active-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/medical-university-lodz-poland-dedicating-its-international-doctoral-school-subject-active-and_en)

<sup>5022</sup> Medical University of Lodz (Poland) is dedicating its International Doctoral School to the subject of Active and healthy Ageing, European Commission (Brussels) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/medical-university-lodz-poland-dedicating-its-international-doctoral-school-subject-active-and\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/medical-university-lodz-poland-dedicating-its-international-doctoral-school-subject-active-and_en)

<sup>5023</sup> Transforming Ageing — SoCaTel Hackathons: Win a 500 EUR cash prize plus a contract worth 6,000 EUR, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/transforming-ageing-socatel-hackathons-win-500-eur-cash-prize-plus-contract-worth-6000-eur\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/transforming-ageing-socatel-hackathons-win-500-eur-cash-prize-plus-contract-worth-6000-eur_en)

<sup>5024</sup> Transforming Ageing — SoCaTel Hackathons: Win a 500 EUR cash prize plus a contract worth 6,000 EUR, European Commission (Brussels) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/transforming-ageing-socatel-hackathons-win-500-eur-cash-prize-plus-contract-worth-6000-eur\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/transforming-ageing-socatel-hackathons-win-500-eur-cash-prize-plus-contract-worth-6000-eur_en)

<sup>5025</sup> I2M ADOPTION AWARDS: Rewarding the adopters of cutting-edge technologies in Active and Healthy Ageing (Brussels) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/i2m-adoption-awards-rewarding-adopters-cutting-edge-technologies-active-and-healthy-ageing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/i2m-adoption-awards-rewarding-adopters-cutting-edge-technologies-active-and-healthy-ageing_en)



suppliers AHA innovation, but to also inspire other healthcare organizations to better their delivery of healthcare services in the context of AHA.<sup>5026</sup>

On 3-4 December 2019, TeNDER, a project funded by Horizon 2020 (the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation), held its first meeting in Madrid to discuss “task allocations, timelines, and key deliverables.”<sup>5027</sup> This project aims to develop an integrated care model to manage multi-morbidity in patients with neurodegenerative diseases.<sup>5028</sup> It includes five large scale pilot programs in various care settings (e.g., in-hospital acute care or at home) and monitoring patients.<sup>5029</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the EIP, funded by the European Union, organized a two-day workshop attended by over 300 stakeholders.<sup>5030</sup> It specifically tackled lifespan health promotion and the prevention of age-related frailty and disease, aiming to highlight the importance of digital solutions in the implementation of home-care service provision and social inclusion for the elderly.<sup>5031</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the European Commission presented the development of 11 Blueprint scenarios.<sup>5032</sup> “Blueprint” refers to the “European Blueprint on Digital Transformation of Health and Care for the Ageing Society” and embodies a collective European vision on how innovation can transform healthcare in a rapidly ageing society.<sup>5033</sup> Blueprint scenarios are primarily used in workshops with a variety of stakeholders to “enable co-development, stock-taking of the best practices and/or ICT [information and communications technology] solutions, and the targeting of various key topics from different points of views.”<sup>5034</sup> They are essential building blocks to widening the support for the large scale uptake of digital innovation for active and healthy ageing in the

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<sup>5026</sup> I2M ADOPTION AWARDS: Rewarding the adopters of cutting-edge technologies in Active and Healthy Ageing (Brussels) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/i2m-adoption-awards-rewarding-adopters-cutting-edge-technologies-active-and-healthy-ageing\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/i2m-adoption-awards-rewarding-adopters-cutting-edge-technologies-active-and-healthy-ageing_en)

<sup>5027</sup> New H2020 project TeNDER: Affective based integrated care for better quality of life (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life_en)

<sup>5028</sup> New H2020 project TeNDER: Affective based integrated care for better quality of life (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life_en)

<sup>5029</sup> New H2020 project TeNDER: Affective based integrated care for better quality of life (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/new-h2020-project-tender-affective-based-integrated-care-better-quality-life_en)

<sup>5030</sup> EIP on AHA thematic workshop on Lifespan Health Promotion & Prevention of age-related frailty and disease (Brussels) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-aha-thematic-workshop-lifespan-health-promotion-prevention-age-related-frailty-and-disease\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-aha-thematic-workshop-lifespan-health-promotion-prevention-age-related-frailty-and-disease_en)

<sup>5031</sup> EIP on AHA thematic workshop on Lifespan Health Promotion & Prevention of age-related frailty and disease (Brussels) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-aha-thematic-workshop-lifespan-health-promotion-prevention-age-related-frailty-and-disease\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-aha-thematic-workshop-lifespan-health-promotion-prevention-age-related-frailty-and-disease_en)

<sup>5032</sup> 11 Blueprint scenarios have been developed to illustrate the personal interactions and ICT solutions that support the Blueprint personas and their needs (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions_en)

<sup>5033</sup> 11 Blueprint scenarios have been developed to illustrate the personal interactions and ICT solutions that support the Blueprint personas and their needs (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions_en)

<sup>5034</sup> 11 Blueprint scenarios have been developed to illustrate the personal interactions and ICT solutions that support the Blueprint personas and their needs (Brussels) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/11-blueprint-scenarios-have-been-developed-illustrate-personal-interactions-and-ict-solutions_en)

European Union, as they successfully showcase improved interactions between digital AHA solutions and patients.<sup>5035</sup>

On 1 January 2020, a consortium of 12 entities, specifically, Caritas Diocesana de Coimbra, SYNO GmbH, CNR (ISTT), Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research IDG, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Institute of Communication and Computer Systems, Jožef Stefan Institute, Afedemy, Academy on Age-Friendly Environments BV, Linköping University, Universitat de les Illes Balears, Stitching Smart Homes, and Etablissementsa Lievens Lanckman, launched the project, PlatformUptake.eu, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme.<sup>5036</sup> This project is working towards creating an online information hub with the aim to assess the societal impact of existing open source platforms for the development of innovative solutions in the AHA domain.<sup>5037</sup> This online information hub will also support the uptake of these aforementioned platforms by providing “support materials on all relevant platforms, stakeholder events, and the promotion of synergies, knowledge exchange, and a common understanding among all stakeholders in the AHA market.”<sup>5038</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the European Commission announced that in spring 2020, the EIP and DigitalHealthEurope (DHE) will collaborate to promote EIP and DHE twinning schemes, which will “support ... Europe's quadruple helix stakeholders: industry, civil society, academic and governments.”<sup>5039</sup> While the EIP twinings focus on healthy and active ageing with the aim to expand digital solutions to health and care, the DHE twinings aim to address health data sharing across borders, advance research on disease prevention, and support person-focused care.<sup>5040</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the European Commission announced that ProACT had secured grants to advance their platform, research, and trials, and that it would launch a spin-off company in 2020 to leverage ProACT's outputs to aid other research endeavours.<sup>5041</sup> ProACT is a European initiative originally spanning from January 2016 to July 2019 which successfully developed a digitally integrated care system for elder citizens suffering from multimorbidity, their caregivers, and healthcare providers to better manage multiple chronic diseases.<sup>5042</sup>

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<sup>5035</sup> Report on the Evolution of the Blueprint on Digital Transformation of Health and Care for the Ageing Society (Brussels) December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/sites/eipaha/files/news/we4aha\\_blueprint\\_update\\_publishable\\_version\\_december\\_2019.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/sites/eipaha/files/news/we4aha_blueprint_update_publishable_version_december_2019.pdf)

<sup>5036</sup> PlatformUptake.eu, Caritas Diocesana de Coimbra (Coimbra) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://en.caritascoimbra.pt/project/platformuptake-eu/>.

<sup>5037</sup> PlatformUptake.eu — Assessing the State of the Art and Supporting the Uptake and Evolution of Open Service Platforms in the Active and Healthy Ageing Domain (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/platformuptakeeu-assessing-state-art-and-supporting-uptake-and-evolution-open-service-platforms\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/platformuptakeeu-assessing-state-art-and-supporting-uptake-and-evolution-open-service-platforms_en)

<sup>5038</sup> PlatformUptake.eu — Assessing the State of the Art and Supporting the Uptake and Evolution of Open Service Platforms in the Active and Healthy Ageing Domain (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/platformuptakeeu-assessing-state-art-and-supporting-uptake-and-evolution-open-service-platforms\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/platformuptakeeu-assessing-state-art-and-supporting-uptake-and-evolution-open-service-platforms_en)

<sup>5039</sup> Second calls for twinning Scaling up digital transformation for health and care in Europe (Brussels) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 29 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/second-calls-twinning-scaling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/second-calls-twinning-scaling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-europe_en)

<sup>5040</sup> Second calls for twinning Scaling up digital transformation for health and care in Europe (Brussels) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 29 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/second-calls-twinning-scaling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-europe\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/second-calls-twinning-scaling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-europe_en)

<sup>5041</sup> An ecosystem for integrated care of multimorbid patients (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients_en)

<sup>5042</sup> An ecosystem for integrated care of multimorbid patients (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients_en)

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On 31 March 2020, the European Commission announced that as a part of the We4authors project, Funka — a Sweden-based organization that specializes in the field of accessibility — has successfully analyzed the “main results of the prototyping and testing of accessibility features in different authoring tools.”<sup>5045</sup> We4authors is a pilot project that is comprised of a set of initiatives that help in incorporating accessibility features as default options in the most relevant, licensed and open source authoring tools used the public sector in Europe, effectively making these tools more accessible to everyone, particularly those with disabilities and older adults.<sup>5046</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the European Commission announced that the Skills4Adherence project, which was developed through the collaboration of three EIP on AHA partners, released a free online course on “Patient Adherence and Polytherapy in the Elderly.”<sup>5047</sup> This program provides essential knowledge and skills in “methods to improve patient adherence, prevention of polypharmacy, and methods to increase uptake of adherence-enhancing interventions in the elderly,” being particularly useful for healthcare professionals in helping their patients, while the course is open to everyone.<sup>5048</sup>

On 8 June 2020, the European Commission announced that through an EIP partnership, a paper addressing the potential long-term effects of the COVID-19 outbreak on individuals with Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) and elderly patients.<sup>5049</sup> The stated goal of this publication was to support NCD patients in managing their chronic conditions through the promotion and prioritization of their basic needs.<sup>5050</sup>

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<sup>5043</sup> An ecosystem for integrated care of multimorbid patients (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients_en)

<sup>5044</sup> An ecosystem for integrated care of multimorbid patients (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/ecosystem-integrated-care-multimorbid-patients_en)

<sup>5045</sup> Promoting accessibility by default in web authoring tools: Guidelines now available!, European Commission (Brussels) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/promoting-accessibility-default-web-authoring-tools-guidelines-now-available\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/promoting-accessibility-default-web-authoring-tools-guidelines-now-available_en)

<sup>5046</sup> Promoting accessibility by default in web authoring tools: Guidelines now available!, European Commission (Brussels) 31 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/promoting-accessibility-default-web-authoring-tools-guidelines-now-available\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/promoting-accessibility-default-web-authoring-tools-guidelines-now-available_en)

<sup>5047</sup> Innovative Online Educational Course released by the Skills4Adherence project!, European Commission (Brussels) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/innovative-online-educational-course-released-skills4adherence-project\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/innovative-online-educational-course-released-skills4adherence-project_en)

<sup>5048</sup> Innovative Online Educational Course released by the Skills4Adherence project!, European Commission (Brussels) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/innovative-online-educational-course-released-skills4adherence-project\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/innovative-online-educational-course-released-skills4adherence-project_en)

<sup>5049</sup> EIP partnership publication on The potential long-term impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on elderly patients with NCDs, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-partnership-publication-potential-long-term-impact-covid-19-outbreak-elderly-patients-ncds\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-partnership-publication-potential-long-term-impact-covid-19-outbreak-elderly-patients-ncds_en)

<sup>5050</sup> EIP partnership publication on The potential long-term impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on elderly patients with NCDs, European Commission (Brussels) 8 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-partnership-publication-potential-long-term-impact-covid-19-outbreak-elderly-patients-ncds\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/eip-partnership-publication-potential-long-term-impact-covid-19-outbreak-elderly-patients-ncds_en)

On 10 June 2020, the European Commission announced the approval of the NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action, connecting 136 researchers across 47 countries to partake in a four-year long project starting in the second half of 2020.<sup>5051</sup> The purpose of this project is to aid in the “establishment and maintenance of local and regional ecosystems to showcase the best implementation of Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments.”<sup>5052</sup> The EU’s Horizon 2020 programme and the COST Action Association together provide funding.<sup>5053</sup>

The European Union has taken multiple policy actions to promote healthy and active ageing, such as investments towards the development of age-friendly environments and products that aim to improve autonomy of older people, innovative technological approaches to enhance health outcomes of the ageing population, and the development of community-based services to encourage social inclusion.

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

*Analyst: Daisy Zhou*

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<sup>5051</sup> NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action approved!, European Commission (Brussels) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care_en)

<sup>5052</sup> NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action approved!, European Commission (Brussels) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care_en)

<sup>5053</sup> NET4AGE-FRIENDLY COST Action approved!, European Commission (Brussels) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/news/joint-aha-action-implementation-digitally-enabled-integrated-person-centred-care_en)

## 16. Health: Public Health Preparedness

“We are committed to improving public health preparedness and response including strengthening our own core capacities”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	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			+1
Average	+1.00 (100%)		

### Background

G20 leaders made their first commitments on health in Brisbane in 2014 in response to the outbreak of Ebola virus in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.<sup>5054</sup> They approved a joint statement on Ebola threat and pledged to “do what is necessary to ensure the international effort can extinguish the outbreak” and urged the World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund to “continue their strong support for the affected countries.” The G20 members pledged to fully implement the World Health Organization’s (WHO) International Health Regulations (IHR) addressing “longer-term systemic issues and gaps in capability, preparedness and response capacity that expose the global economy to the impacts of infectious disease.”<sup>5055</sup>

Under Germany’s G20 presidency in 2017, G20 health ministers met for the first time. They acknowledged the role of the IHR and agreed to act “accordingly with our obligations under the IHR and support the leadership and coordination of WHO in the event of health crises of international

<sup>5054</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

<sup>5055</sup> G20 Leaders’ Brisbane Statement on Ebola., G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2014. Access Date: 11 December 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1115-ebola.html>

concern.”<sup>5056</sup> G20 members agreed to “strengthen the national and, where applicable, regional monitoring and surveillance of both antimicrobial resistance and the consumption of antibiotics” within their own jurisdictions.<sup>5057</sup> At the Hamburg Summit the G20 leaders discussed antimicrobial resistance (AMR), acknowledged its “growing threat to public health and economic growth” and pledged to “strengthen public awareness, infection prevention and control and improve the understanding of the issue of antimicrobials in the environment.”<sup>5058</sup>

In 2018 at Buenos Aires the G20 leaders once again acknowledged “the need for further multi-sectoral action to reduce the spread of AMR” and extended the health-related agenda of the G20 by pledging to “tackle malnutrition, with a special focus on childhood overweight and obesity, through national, community-based and collaborative multi-stakeholder approaches.”<sup>5059</sup> In addition, the G20 leaders draw attention to provision of “better health care” and agreed to “improve [health care] quality and affordability to move towards Universal Health Coverage.”<sup>5060</sup>

In 2019 at Osaka G20 leaders reaffirmed the need for stronger health systems providing cost-effective and evidence-based intervention to achieve better access to health care and to improve its quality and affordability to move towards universal health coverage (UHC), in line with their national contexts and priorities.<sup>5061</sup> They also promised to continue to strengthen core capacities required by IHR for preventing, detecting and responding to public health emergencies, recognized the WHO’s critical role, and committed to ending HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.<sup>5062</sup>

In May 2018, the WHO approved its 13th general work program for 2019–2023, which includes public health preparedness and response among its key goals.<sup>5063</sup> It calls for public health to be strengthened with developing appropriate governance arrangements and essential institutional architecture, and increasing the pool of trained professionals.<sup>5064</sup> Another important aspect is improved surveillance systems necessary for early disease detection and control.

### **Commitment Features**

At Osaka leaders made a commitment to improve public health preparedness and response including strengthening core capacities. According to WHO, public health preparedness means having a

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<sup>5056</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>5057</sup> Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers. G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2017. Access date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170520-health-en.html>

<sup>5058</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5059</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5060</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration Buenos Aires, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access Date: 11 December 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5061</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5062</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 10 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5063</sup> Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

<sup>5064</sup> Thirteenth General Programme of Work 2019–2023, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/324775/WHO-PRP-18.1-eng.pdf>

comprehensive plan, that has been tested and refined through conducting exercises, engaging the whole of society.<sup>5065</sup>

Public health response requires national emergency frameworks and systems that include risk-based emergency preparedness plans, robust emergency management structures, including emergency operation centres, a trained workforce and mobilization of resources during an emergency. In cases where international assistance is required, so are supportive national systems and legislation.<sup>5066</sup>

Core capacities require establishing the capacities necessary to respond effectively and in a timely manner to potential public health emergencies of international concern. These capacities should include efforts to strengthen health systems and to coordinate mobilization of domestic and international funding through multisectoral action plans.<sup>5067</sup>

This commitment requires taking actions in three areas, drawing on the WHO's current work program: governance arrangements and institutional architecture, personnel development, surveillance systems.

### **Governance Arrangements and Institutional Architecture**

The goal of developing the adequate institutional environment can be achieved by reforming national health systems, providing financing to medical institutions and implementing programs to develop national health systems.

### **Personnel Development**

The goal of personnel development can be achieved by introducing additional programs for medical personnel, allocating funding to medical education, and developing upskilling or reskilling programs for medical services.

### **Surveillance Systems**

In 2008, the WHO published “A Guide to Establishing Event-Based Surveillance” that defines surveillance capacity as the organized and rapid capture of information about events that are a potential risk to public health.<sup>5068</sup> In 2009, the WHO published “Global Surveillance during an Influenza Pandemic,” which lists possible governmental actions to build surveillance capacity.<sup>5069</sup> Such actions include:

- detecting and influencing an influenza virus with pandemic potential;
- confirming that an influenza virus with pandemic potential has acquired the ability to be transmitted from person to person and to initiate and sustain community-level outbreaks;

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<sup>5065</sup> Public Health Preparedness, World Health Organization (Geneva) no date. Access Date: 3 April 2019.

<https://www.who.int/influenza/preparedness/en/>

<sup>5066</sup> Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023, WHO (Copenhagen) 2019. Access date: 8 April 2020. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan\\_EN\\_WHO\\_web\\_2.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan_EN_WHO_web_2.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>5067</sup> Action plan to improve public health preparedness and response in the WHO European Region 2018–2023, WHO (Copenhagen) 2019. Access date: 8 April 2020. [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan\\_EN\\_WHO\\_web\\_2.pdf?ua=1](http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/393705/Action-Plan_EN_WHO_web_2.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>5068</sup> A Guide to Establishing Event-Based Surveillance, World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific (Manila), 2008. Access Date: 9 February 2018.

[http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging\\_diseases/documents/docs/eventbasedsurv.pdf](http://www.wpro.who.int/emerging_diseases/documents/docs/eventbasedsurv.pdf)

<sup>5069</sup> Global Surveillance During an Influenza Pandemic, World Health Organization (Geneva), 2009. Access date: 9 February 2018. [http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/global\\_pandemic\\_influenza\\_surveillance\\_apr09.pdf](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/global_pandemic_influenza_surveillance_apr09.pdf)

- describing early epidemiological, virological and clinical characteristics of the outbreak;
- estimating the geographical extent of virus spread to inform containment and control efforts; and
- alerting other states of a public health event of international concern or public health emergencies of international concern.

To achieve full compliance, a G20 member is required to take actions in all three priority areas.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G20 member did not take any actions aimed at promotion of public health preparedness and response
0	The G20 member took actions in one or two of the priority areas
+1	The G20 member took actions in all three priority areas

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: +1

Argentina has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 15-17 July 2019, the Ministry of Health and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) organized the Workshop on Measurement, Analysis and Monitoring of Social Inequalities in Health. The workshop aimed to strengthen capacities for the measurement, analysis, and monitoring of social inequalities in health; provide technical recommendations; develop practical applications and review the monitoring process of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>5070</sup>

On 16 August 2019, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights organized a meeting on the rational management and use of Essential Medicines at the First Level of Care for the health teams of the Federal Penitentiary Service.<sup>5071</sup>

On 29 August 2019, Ministry of Health and laboratory Astrazeneca signed an agreement to promote precision medicine in Argentina. This agreement will contribute to generating research, development and innovation (R + D + i) capacities through strategic collaboration projects between the public and private sectors, aimed at innovation in health services, optimizing existing qualities such as quality of care and access with equity in our health system. It will also allow strengthening and accelerating projects with opportunities for expansion, training and exchanging talents, and sharing practices and experiences with local and international leaders.<sup>5072</sup>

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<sup>5070</sup> Argentina fue sede del Taller de Medición, Análisis y Monitoreo de Desigualdades Sociales en Salud, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2019. Access date: 20 May 2022. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/argentina-fue-sede-del-taller-de-medicion-analisis-y-monitoreo-de-desigualdades-sociales-en>

<sup>5071</sup> Equipos de Salud del Servicio Penitenciario Federal asistieron a jornada de capacitación sobre uso de Medicamentos Esenciales, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 16 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/equipos-de-salud-del-servicio-penitenciario-federal-asistieron-jornada-de-capacitacion>

<sup>5072</sup> Health Innovation Hubs in Emerging Markets: creating integrated science ecosystems, Astra Zeneca (Cambridge) 5 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.astrazeneca.com/Partnering/partnering-case-studies/health-innovation-hubs-in-emerging-markets.html>



On 6 September 2019, Ministry of Health launches the National Plan for Cancer Control. The strategy aims to reduce the prevalence of modifiable risk factors for cancer, improve early diagnosis, care and quality of life for patients, and strengthen human resources to control this disease.<sup>5073</sup>

On 1 October 2019, a research program on antimicrobial resistance promoted through international cooperation between Argentina and the United Kingdom was presented in Buenos Aires. Research seeks to determine patterns in antimicrobial use; knowledge, attitudes and practices in livestock farming; structures and capacities of veterinarians and para-veterinarians; water and waste and sanitation management systems; the behavior and transit of antimicrobial resistant organisms in food systems and other key elements of reproductive systems.<sup>5074</sup>

On 7 October 2019, initiative organized by the Ministry of Health Government in collaboration with PAHO awarded three good practices of Family and Community Health in the framework of the universal health coverage. The Good Practices in Family and Community Health competition aimed to recognize and disseminate the actions of the first level of care to encourage and replicate them in the territory.<sup>5075</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the Secretary of Health of the Nation presented the first Epidemiological Bulletin on Viral Hepatitis with the aim of providing tools to the members of the health teams, giving access to the information necessary to respond to the disease. The newsletter joins the concrete actions that guarantee surveillance, safe blood, vaccine prevention and timely treatment for people with viral hepatitis.<sup>5076</sup>

On 7 November 2019, the Secretary on Health presented the First Clinical Practice Guide for the control of High Blood Pressure that includes recommendations based on scientific evidence on the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of hypertension and seeks to contribute to the reduction of morbidity and mortality. caused by cardiovascular diseases in Argentina.<sup>5077</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the Minister of Health inaugurated the Federal Health Council. “We are going to work with all the provinces to build a federal health policy. We will listen to everyone, we want to have everyone’s representation and work intensively,” said the Minister of Health of the Nation, Ginés González García during the opening of the Federal Health Council.<sup>5078</sup>

On 10 March 2020, the national government created a special fund of ARS1.7 billion to strengthen response to COVID-19. It was announced by authorities from the national health portfolio after

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<sup>5073</sup> Salud lanza el Plan Nacional de Control de Cáncer, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 6 September 2019.

Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-lanza-el-plan-nacional-de-control-de-cancer-0>

<sup>5074</sup> Argentina avanza en la investigación sobre resistencia antimicrobiana, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 1 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/en-cooperacion-con-el-reino-unido-argentina-avanza-en-la-investigacion-sobre-resistencia>

<sup>5075</sup> Salud y OPS premiaron buenas prácticas en salud familiar y comunitaria, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-y-ops-premiaron-buenas-practicas-en-salud-familiar-y-comunitaria>

<sup>5076</sup> Salud presentó el primer boletín epidemiológico sobre las hepatitis virales en Argentina, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 18 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-presento-el-primer-boletin-epidemiologico-sobre-las-hepatitis-virales-en-argentina>

<sup>5077</sup> Salud lanzó la primera guía de práctica clínica para la atención de la hipertensión arterial en el país, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 7 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-lanzo-la-primera-guia-de-practica-clinica-para-la-atencion-de-la-hipertension>

<sup>5078</sup> González García: “Vamos a trabajar con todas las provincias para construir una política de salud federal, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 19 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gonzalez-garcia-vamos-trabajar-con-todas-las-provincias-para-construir-una-politica-de>

participating in a meeting at Casa Rosada led by President Alberto Fernández and Minister González.<sup>5079</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Health began the process of progressive distribution of more than 57,000 tests for diagnosis of COVID-19 to the different jurisdictions of the country. This action is completed with the online training that the professionals of the National Administration of Laboratories and Health Institutes offered by Dr. Carlos Malbrán and PAHO to the country's institutions that are part of the national network of laboratories.<sup>5080</sup>

On 22 March 2020, Minister González and the Secretary for Health Quality, Arnaldo Medina, launched the distribution of chinstraps, masks, goggles, examination gloves, camisoles, thermometers, gel alcohol and disinfectant for ambulances and surfaces, within the framework of the emergency declared by the coronavirus pandemic.<sup>5081</sup>

Argentina has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 14 August 2019, the Government of Australia approved Australia's Long Term National Health Plan. The plan has four major pillars — enhancing primary care and improving access to medicines, supporting private and public hospitals, improving mental health, enhancing medical research capacity. The first pillar includes measures to boost healthcare institutions in rural areas, through increased funding (AUD500 million Stronger Rural Health Strategy), increased number of skilled medical workers in rural hospitals (plus 3000 new doctors and 3000 new nurses), creating new clinical training schools, and incentivizing healthcare professionals. The plan also provides for a AUD125 million investment into Million Minds Mission initiative, including AUD5 million for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders. One of the priorities of the plan is to continue improving capacities for early detection of oncological diseases.<sup>5082</sup>

On 11 March 2020, the Australian government unveiled its COVID-19 National Health Plan. The Plan worth AUD2.4 billion. The Plan provided for support across multiple areas, such as: primary care, aged care, hospitals, research and the national medical stockpile. One of the highlights of the plan is the development of telemedicine capacity of the Australian healthcare system. AUD100 million were

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<sup>5079</sup> Gobierno nacional creó fondo especial de 1.700 millones de pesos para fortalecer respuesta ante el COVID-19, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 10 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gobierno-nacional-creo-fondo-especial-de-1700-millones-de-pesos-para-fortalecer-respuesta>

<sup>5080</sup> ANLIS avanza en la descentralización de la detección diagnóstica del nuevo coronavirus, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/anlis-avanza-en-la-descentralizacion-de-la-deteccion-diagnostica-del-nuevo-coronavirus>

<sup>5081</sup> Salud refuerza la distribución de insumos con destino a hospitales nacionales, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/salud-refuerza-la-distribucion-de-insumos-con-destino-hospitales-nacionales>

<sup>5082</sup> Australia's Long Term National Health Plan, Australian Government Department of Health (Canberra) 14 August 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. [https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-s-long-term-national-health-plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/australia-s-long-term-national-health-plan_0.pdf).

allocated for a new Medicare service for people in home isolation or quarantine. AUD500 million were slated for states and territories to fight COVID-19 outbreak. AUD30 million were allocated from the Medical Research Future Fund for vaccine, anti-viral and respiratory medicine research.<sup>5083</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee issued a statement on the national COVID-19 response for residential aged care facilities, as well as information around the additional funding for Australia's aged care sector. The Australian government will scale up aged care support programs in Victoria and across Australia with an additional AUD171.5 million.<sup>5084</sup>

On 21 September 2020, the Australian government announced additional AUD6 million in funding for the research and development of 3 Australian COVID-19 vaccines.<sup>5085</sup>

Australia has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 11 November 2019, the computerization program of the Government of Brazil for health, "Connect SUS," was launched by the Minister of Health Luiz Henrique Mandetta. The program will integrate citizen health information into a large data network. As a result, health professionals and managers will be more efficient in providing care and continuing patient care at any time and place.<sup>5086</sup>

On 12 November 2019, ordinance No. 2,979 instituted the Previne Brasil Program, which established a new financing model for funding Primary Health Care within the scope of the Unified Health System. For public health management, the main impact is related to changes in the transfer of funds by the federal government. In order not to lose resources, it will be necessary to comply with specific indicators that assess coverage and quality of services.<sup>5087</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the National Congress approved the creation of the Doctors for Brazil program, launched by President Jair Bolsonaro. The initiative will take 18,000 doctors to the poorest regions of the country, in addition to training specialists in the prevention and monitoring of diseases more frequent in Brazilians, such as diabetes and hypertension.<sup>5088</sup>

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<sup>5083</sup> \$2.4 Billion Health Plan To Fight Covid-19, Australian Government (Canberra) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/24-billion-health-plan-fight-covid-19>.

<sup>5084</sup> Protecting Older Australians: COVID-19 update 26 August 2020, Australian Government (Canberra) 26 August 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/newsletters/protecting-older-australians-covid-19-update-26-august-2020>.

<sup>5085</sup> Additional support for COVID-19 vaccine research projects, Australian Government (Canberra) 21 September 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.health.gov.au/news/additional-support-for-covid-19-vaccine-research-projects>.

<sup>5086</sup> Saúde será conectada em todo Brasil, Ministry of Health of Brazil (Brasilia) 11 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.saude.gov.br/noticias/agencia-saude/conecte-sus-saude-sera-conectada-em-todo-brasil>

<sup>5087</sup> Portaria Nº 2.979, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasilia) 12 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-2.979-de-12-de-novembro-de-2019-227652180>

<sup>5088</sup> Médicos pelo Brasil é aprovado pelo Congresso Nacional, Ministry of Health of Brazil (Brasilia) 27 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://saude.gov.br/noticias/agencia-saude/46092-medicos-pelo-brasil-e-aprovado-pelo-congresso-nacional>

On 11 December 2019, ordinance No. 3,263 established the financial incentive for federal funding for the implementation and strengthening of registration actions for users of the Unified Health System, within the scope of primary health care.<sup>5089</sup>

Brazil has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 17 July 2019, Minister of Health Ginette Petitpas Taylor announced the Government's allocation of additional CAD76.2 million to address the opioid crisis and problematic substance use, bringing the total funding to more than CAD100 million. These funds include: CAD41.8 million to scale up key life-saving measures in underserved communities, CAD33.6 million to mitigate the impacts of the illegal drug supply, and CAD31.3 million to identify and address emerging drug threats.<sup>5090</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada activated its Health Portfolio Operations Centre and triggered the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Public Health Response Plan for the Biological Events. The plan aims to coordinate federal, provincial and territorial healthcare authorities' responses to public health events that are biological in nature and are of a high level of severity.<sup>5091</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister Hajdu announced the signing of Interim Order, allowing expedited access to COVID-19-related medical devices for use by healthcare providers, including diagnostic test kits. This measure was taken to ensure quicker and more flexible approval of the importation and sale of medical devices that are necessary for Canada's response to COVID-19.<sup>5092</sup>

On 23 April 2020, the Government of Canada released its Research Response to COVID-19. As a part of a CAD1 billion support to the fight against the coronavirus outbreak, CAD275 million were directed to the support of academia and industry partners to advance innovative research and large-scale projects to respond to COVID-19 and ensure domestic supply of potential vaccines and treatments. The plan also provides for engaging with private sector to build-up research capacity in

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<sup>5089</sup> Portaria Nº 3.263, Diário Oficial Da União (Brasília) 11 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <http://www.in.gov.br/en/web/dou/-/portaria-n-3.263-de-11-de-dezembro-de-2019-232941846>

<sup>5090</sup> Government of Canada invests in new measures to address the opioid crisis and emerging drug threats, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-new-measures-to-address-the-opioid-crisis-and-emerging-drug-threats.html>.

<sup>5091</sup> Government of Canada takes action on COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/canadas-reponse/government-canada-takes-action-covid-19.html>.

<sup>5092</sup> Health Canada expedites access to COVID-19 diagnostic laboratory test kits and other medical devices, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2020/03/health-canada-expedites-access-to-covid-19-diagnostic-laboratory-test-kits-and-other-medical-devices.html>.

response to COVID-19. CAD100 million are to be directed towards improving public health services, including enhanced surveillance and scaled-up testing.<sup>5093</sup>

On 12 August 2020, the Government of Canada announced additional CAD305 million in funding for Indigenous communities and organizations to support community-based responses to COVID-19. This funding was made available to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities, as well as Indigenous communities and organizations serving Indigenous peoples.<sup>5094</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Government of Canada signed an agreement with Abbott Rapid Diagnostics ULC to purchase up to 7.9 million ID NOW rapid point-of-care tests and up to 3,800 analyzers, which are the devices that perform the test and deliver the rapid results.<sup>5095</sup>

Canada has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 19 February 2020, China's health authorities revealed that a novel coronavirus can be transmitted via aerosol. In that case, the respiratory droplets and close contacts should be considered as primary means of the infection's spread.<sup>5096</sup>

On 7 March 2020, the National Medical Products Administration approved a 29-minute testing kit that would help to enhance surveillance capacity against the spread of the novel coronavirus. The kit was developed by specialists from Xiamen University.<sup>5097</sup>

On 8 March 2020, the Government of China announced its intention to donate USD20 million to the World Health Organization to help reduce the spread and impact of the coronavirus.<sup>5098</sup>

On 12 March 2020, China announced its intention to assist countries in combating the spread of COVID-19. The announcement was made during a meeting of a leading group of China's coronavirus

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<sup>5093</sup> Government of Canada's research response to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 14 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/covid-19-government-canada-research-response.html>.

<sup>5094</sup> Government of Canada announces funding for Indigenous communities and organizations to support community-based responses to COVID-19, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-indigenous-communities-and-organizations-to-support-community-based-responses-to-covid-19.html>.

<sup>5095</sup> Government of Canada signs agreement for COVID-19 rapid tests and analyzers, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/news/2020/09/government-of-canada-signs-agreement-for-covid-19-rapid-tests-and-analyzers.html>.

<sup>5096</sup> Novel coronavirus can transmit via aerosol: health authorities, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 02 February 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-02/20/c\\_76749.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-02/20/c_76749.htm)

<sup>5097</sup> China approves 29-minute testing kit for new coronavirus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020.: [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c\\_77478.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c_77478.htm)

<sup>5098</sup> China to donate 20 mln USD supporting WHO's global fight against coronavirus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020.[http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c\\_77481.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/08/c_77481.htm)

response chaired by Premier Li Keqiang. The participants of the meeting urged Chinese producers of medical supplies to boost production to match growing demand in countries affected with influenza.<sup>5099</sup>

On 17 March 2020, Chinese authorities launched clinical trials of coronavirus vaccine. Volunteers aged between 18 and 60 are kept in two medical facilities in Wuhan. The trial is scheduled to finish by 31 December 2020.<sup>5100</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the leading Chinese experts in traditional medicine from the Chinese Academy of Engineering shared their experience with the American counterparts in diagnosing and treating pneumonia associated with the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan. The methods discussed were proved to be effective in-field and thus can be exploited to deal with the spread of disease in the United States.<sup>5101</sup>

On 18 March 2020, China sent a group of 13 medical experts and 17.3 metric tons of medical supplies to Milan, Italy, to help European countries contain the spread of COVID-19. It's the second flight sent by the Chinese government to Europe. The expert team would share experience with local health authorities in dealing with the novel coronavirus.<sup>5102</sup>

On 20 March 2020, Chinese health officials and experts held an online conference on the prevention and control of the COVID-19. The conference was attended by health practitioners, experts and officials from 19 countries, influenced with the virus. The aim of the conference was to share positive experience gathered by Chinese health authorities during latest emergency.<sup>5103</sup>

On 9 May 2020, China has released guidelines on regular COVID-19 prevention. The guide is aimed at prevention of imported cases of the COVID-19 and domestic resurgence, faster response to an epidemic outbreak, better treatment of infected persons and overall recovery of the social and economic order.<sup>5104</sup>

On 10 May 2020, China delivered another batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid to Egypt. The batch included 4.7 tones of medical supplies namely N95 masks, protective suits and detecting reagents.<sup>5105</sup>

On 13 May 2020, 12 Chinese specialists were dispatched to Harare, Zimbabwe, to fight against the spread of COVID-19 in the country. The doctors will help in sharing ideas and experiences with local medical practitioners.<sup>5106</sup>

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<sup>5099</sup> China pledges international pandemic aid, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 13 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/13/c\\_77654.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/13/c_77654.htm)

<sup>5100</sup> China launches first clinical trial of coronavirus vaccine, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 22 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/22/c\\_78098.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/22/c_78098.htm)

<sup>5101</sup> TCM experience shared with US counterparts to fight virus, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 20 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/20/c\\_78013.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/20/c_78013.htm)

<sup>5102</sup> 13-member team of Chinese experts fly to Italy, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 19 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/19/c\\_77957.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/19/c_77957.htm)

<sup>5103</sup> China shares virus knowledge, response with 19 nations in conference, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 21 March 2020 (Beijing). Access date: 23 March 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/21/c\\_78065.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-03/21/c_78065.htm)

<sup>5104</sup> State Council issues guideline on regular COVID-19 prevention, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 09 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/09/c\\_79992.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/09/c_79992.htm)

<sup>5105</sup> Egypt receives 2nd batch of anti-coronavirus medical aid from Chinese gov't, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 11 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/11/c\\_80052.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/11/c_80052.htm)

<sup>5106</sup> China dispatches anti-COVID-19 doctors to Zimbabwe, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 13 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/13/c\\_80109.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/13/c_80109.htm)

On 14 May 2020, Chinese medical experts held a videoconference with counterparts from 24 African countries and the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The conference covered more than 50 technical questions related to the clinical diagnosis and treatment methods of COVID-19 and the application of traditional Chinese medicine in its diagnosis and treatment.<sup>5107</sup>

On 8 June 2020, China has established a new system of COVID-19 information release amid its all-out effort to contain the epidemic.<sup>5108</sup>

On 4 September 2020, the National Health Commission has announced opening of new five regional medical centers for children.<sup>5109</sup>

On 9 September 2020, China has initiated the improvement of the monitoring system for infectious disease and public health emergencies while strengthening the integration of public health information.<sup>5110</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the State Council has adopted a host of measures to boost the training of medical workers, with steps to expand enrollment in postgraduate programs and boost the number of nurses at hospitals as the country moves to address weaknesses in the healthcare sector exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5111</sup>

On 21 September 2020, China has initiated renovation and expansion of laboratories, equipment and facilities outfitting, as well as personnel training.<sup>5112</sup>

China is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 15 October 2019, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health announced the launch of the Complémentaire santé solidaire (New Complementary Healthcare). The new program came into

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<sup>5107</sup> China, African countries share COVID-19 knowledge via video link, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 14 May 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/14/c\\_80139.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-05/14/c_80139.htm)

<sup>5108</sup> China establishes strict, efficient COVID-19 information release system: white paper, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 08 June 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-06/08/c\\_80670.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-06/08/c_80670.htm)

<sup>5109</sup> China to establish five regional children's health centers, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 07 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/07/c\\_81568.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/07/c_81568.htm)

<sup>5110</sup> China to accelerate improvement of monitoring system for infectious disease, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 10 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/10/c\\_81616.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/10/c_81616.htm)

<sup>5111</sup> Cabinet gives boost to medical training, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 16 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/16/c\\_81671.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/16/c_81671.htm)

<sup>5112</sup> China's disease control centers encouraged to provide COVID-19 test, National Health Commission of the People's Republic of China 21 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/21/c\\_81715.htm](http://en.nhc.gov.cn/2020-09/21/c_81715.htm)

effect on 1 November. It allows people with modest or low incomes to benefit from additional coverage of health costs.<sup>5113</sup>

On 20 November 2019, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe and Minister of Solidarity and Health Agnès Buzyn announced “Investing for the Hospital,” a new component of the “My Health 2022” strategy, aimed at restoring flexibility and leeway for improve the daily lives of hospital teams and to better support them in transformations, around three axes:

- Restore the attractiveness of the trades and (re) make caregivers want to work in the hospital,
- Restore the dialogue and flexibility of management in the daily life of the hospital,
- Reinvest the public hospital by giving it new means and visibility over time.<sup>5114</sup>

On 30 November 2019, the Health Data Hub was officially launched. New tools, such as mass processing of health data and artificial intelligence will allow significant progress in patient support, assessment and choice of treatments and management of the health system.<sup>5115</sup>

On 9 January 2020, Minister Buzyn, Minister of Higher Education Research and Innovation Frédérique Vidal and Secretary General for Investment Guillaume Boudy launched the priority research program with EUR40 million dedicated to the fight against antibiotic resistance coordinated by Inserm on behalf of the entire national scientific community.<sup>5116</sup>

On 6 February 2020, Minister Buzyn concluded a memorandum of understanding with the federations of health establishments and for the first time registered the progression of the resources of health establishments in a multi-year logic. The decisions taken for the 2020 price and budget campaign, like those of the 2019 campaign, are a major break with the long cycle of price cuts that establishments have experienced in recent years.<sup>5117</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the Ministry of Solidarity and Health set up an accelerated procedure for evaluating research projects. A jury comprising representatives of the scientific committee of the REACTing consortium urgently examined 27 projects related to COVID-19. 11 projects were identified by the jury as priorities to be implemented now. These projects cover a large part of the

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<sup>5113</sup> Nouvelle Complémentaire santé solidaire, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 15 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/nouvelle-complementaire-sante-solidaire>

<sup>5114</sup> Agnès BUZYN enclenche la mise en oeuvre des mesures "investir pour l'hôpital", Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 13 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/agnes-buzyn-enclenche-la-mise-en-oeuvre-des-mesures-investir-pour-l-hopital>

<sup>5115</sup> Création officielle du Health data hub, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 30 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/creation-officielle-du-health-data-hub>

<sup>5116</sup> Coup d'envoi du programme prioritaire de recherche sur l'antibiorésistance, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 9 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/coup-d-envoi-du-programme-prioritaire-de-recherche-sur-l-antibioresistance-429001>

<sup>5117</sup> Premier protocole d'accord sur l'évolution pluriannuelle minimale des ressources des établissements de santé, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 6 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/premier-protocole-d-accord-sur-l-evolution-pluriannuelle-minimale-des>



continuum of health research, from diagnosis to treatment through the psychological impact of the epidemic and concern both patients and caregivers.<sup>5118</sup>

On 4 May 2020, the French Government pledged EUR500 million to the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) platform to support WHO, ramp up the pace of research and development on a vaccine, in partnership with CEPI and GAVI, ensure fair access to resources to eliminate COVID-19, particularly as regards patents, and consolidate support for the healthcare systems in the most vulnerable countries, particularly in conjunction with the Global Fund.<sup>5119</sup>

On 8 May 2020, the government decided to finance by health insurance an exceptional premium for professionals present during the crisis, whatever their status, of all accommodation establishments for dependent elderly people (Ehpad) as well as establishments and services accompanying adults and children with disabilities who are financed or co-financed by health insurance. For these professionals, who have worked in the thirty-three departments most affected by the epidemic, the premium will be EUR1,500. For professionals in other departments, it will be EUR1,000.<sup>5120</sup>

On 18 May 2020, Minister of Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister Vidal announced that the “numerus clausus” for the year 2019-2020 will allow nearly 15,000 students to continue their studies to become health professionals. This numerus clausus will be the last. In fact, in application of the law relating to the organization and transformation of the health system, the First Common Year of Health Studies (PACES) and the Numérus Clausus will be abolished from the start of the 2020 academic year in favor of a variety of access routes to Health Studies and to regulation as close as possible to the needs of the territories.<sup>5121</sup>

France has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 4 October 2019, Germany committed an additional EUR3 million in support of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) fight against Ebola. Minister of Health Jens Spahn pledged this at a meeting of WHO representatives in Goma, Congo. These additional funds will replenish WHO’s Contingency Fund for Emergencies, which was set up in 2015 in the wake of the first major Ebola

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<sup>5118</sup> Ministère des Solidarités et de la Santé — Financement en urgence de 11 projets de recherche appliquée en santé pour près de 9 millions d’euros, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/ministere-des-solidarites-et-de-la-sante-financement-en-urgence-de-11-projets>

<sup>5119</sup> France pledges €500m against Covid-19, Government of France 6 May 2020. Access date: 28 September 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/france-pledges-eu500m-against-covid-19>

<sup>5120</sup> Versement d’une prime exceptionnelle aux professionnels des secteurs sociaux et médico-sociaux, , Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 8 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/versement-d-une-prime-exceptionnelle-aux-professionnels-des-secteurs-sociaux-et>

<sup>5121</sup> Numérus Clausus 2020, Ministry of Solidarity and Health of France (Paris) 18 May 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/actualites/presse/communiqués-de-presse/article/numerus-clausus-2020-429464>

crisis. With the EUR33.6 million it had donated since the Fund's creation, the German government became its biggest single contributor.<sup>5122</sup>

On 23 January 2020, the Global Health Hub Germany awarded the three winning teams of the New Ideas for Global Health competition. The Global Health Hub Germany was founded by the Federal Ministry of Health as an independent network. Minister Spahn called for this competition and invited over 600 members of the Global Health Hub to form cross-stakeholder project teams to jointly develop project ideas to solve global health challenges. In November 2019, a panel of experts selected the top three project ideas. The selected projects range from an app to pay for healthcare services to the promotion of global health at German medical schools and a database on project partnerships.<sup>5123</sup>

On 1 March 2020, the Measles Protection Act entered into force. In particular, the act provides for the proof of age-appropriate measles vaccination protection to be given when being admitted to daycare facilities or schools. Persons who work in community and healthcare facilities must also be vaccinated against this infectious disease.<sup>5124</sup>

On 25 March 2020, the Bundestag adopted the COVID-19 Hospital Relief Act. It comprises a number of measures to guarantee the funding of hospitals and ensure their liquidity. The act contains provisions for out-patient care. Doctors working in practices can expect to receive compensatory payments if they suffer loss of earnings as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also amends the Federal Training Promotion Act to ensure that young people who are still in training, and who make a valuable contribution to easing the strain on the health system, do not suffer any disadvantages relating to their loans for trainees.<sup>5125</sup>

On 4 May 2020, Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged EUR525 million for the Global Response Initiative to fight COVID-19.<sup>5126</sup>

On 17 June 2020, Federal Economic Affairs Minister Peter Altmaier informed that the German Government would invest EUR300 million in the biotech company CureVac AG, which is working on a COVID-19 vaccine, in a move to accelerate vaccine development.<sup>5127</sup>

On 23 September 2020, the German Federal Health Ministry presented the draft law aimed at reforming the training of the professions in medical technology in a contemporary way. The binding training contract with appropriate training remuneration and the prohibition on charging fees for future training is expected to attract more people to professions in medical technology.<sup>5128</sup>

Germany has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

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<sup>5122</sup> Federal Minister of Health, Jens Spahn, commits additional funds to WHO Contingency Fund for Emergencies (CFE), German Federal Ministry of Health 4 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2019/who-contingency-fund.html>.

<sup>5123</sup> Spahn: "Strong German network for global health", German Federal Ministry of Health 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/en/press/2020/global-health-hub.html>.

<sup>5124</sup> The Bundestag adopts the Measles Protection Act, German Federal Ministry of Health 14 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2019/measles-protection-act.html>.

<sup>5125</sup> Hospitals and medical practices to be strengthened, German Federal Government 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-de/themen/coronavirus/covid19-krankenhaus-gesetz-1735060>.

<sup>5126</sup> Billions pledged for the fight against the coronavirus, German Federal Government 4 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/search/geberkonferenz-covid-19-1750332>.

<sup>5127</sup> German government invests in the development of a vaccine, German Federal Government 17 June 2020. Access Date: 30 September 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/impfstoffentwicklung-1761572>.

<sup>5128</sup> MTA-Reformgesetz, German Federal Ministry of Health 23 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/mta-reformgesetz.html>.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepon*

**India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 16 July 2019, the government constituted a committee to examine various aspects of a uniform legislative framework to address issues of assault on clinical establishments and doctors on duty.<sup>5129</sup>

On 18 July 2019, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Railways to strengthen inter-ministerial coordination and efforts towards tuberculosis-free India by 2025. Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said that “multisectoral action” is one of the key strategies which makes a strong case for transforming India’s tuberculosis elimination efforts from a siloed health sector response to a holistic approach.<sup>5130</sup>

On 26 August 2019, the Health Ministry signed an MOU with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention. It will help in developing specific strategies and action plans for HIV and AIDS prevention and mechanisms for drug addiction treatment and extending social protection schemes to the vulnerable populations. Speaking on the key deliverables of the MOU, Minister Vardhan stated that the MOU will help in developing human resources and build capacity in order to strengthen the service delivery mechanisms for HIV/AIDS prevention, drug addiction treatment and referral to services offered by National AIDS Control Programme.<sup>5131</sup>

On 30 August 2019, the Central Tuberculosis Division of the Health Ministry signed an MOU with Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence to explore the application of cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence technology in its fight against tuberculosis. As part of the collaboration, Wadhvani AI would be supporting the national tuberculosis program become ready for artificial intelligence (AI), which would include, developing, piloting and deploying AI-based solutions. It would support the programme in vulnerability and hot-spot mapping, modelling novel methods of screening and diagnostics and enabling decision support for care givers.<sup>5132</sup>

On 28 March 2020, Minister Vardhan launched the National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC). He said that CoNTeC has been made operational with a view to connect the doctors across the country in real time for treatment of COVID-19 patients. He said that doctors would be available in the facility seven days a week and operational for 24 hours.<sup>5133</sup>

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<sup>5129</sup> Bill on Protection of Resident doctors, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 16 July 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1578930>

<sup>5130</sup> Health Ministry signs MoUs with three Ministries for enhanced cooperation to end TB by 2025, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 18 July 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1579436>

<sup>5131</sup> Health Ministry signs MoU with Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for enhanced outreach on HIV/AIDS prevention, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 26 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583055>

<sup>5132</sup> TB Division of the Health Ministry signs MoU to explore Artificial Intelligence (AI) based solutions in combating TB, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 30 August 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1583584>

<sup>5133</sup> Dr. Harsh Vardhan launches National Teleconsultation Centre (CoNTeC), Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (New Delhi) 28 March 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1608907>

On 19 April 2020, the Indian government launched an online data pool of doctors including nurses and other health care professionals and volunteers to use by the ground level administration at state, district or municipal levels.<sup>5134</sup>

India has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 7-9 August 2019, in Bekasi, West Java, in order to improve local and national emerging infectious diseases (EIDs) preparedness and to improve the capacity for detection and response to potential public health emergencies the Ministry of Health in cooperation with World Health Organization (WHO) Indonesia hold local EID risk mapping workshops.<sup>5135</sup>

On 13-15 August 2019, Timor-Leste and Indonesia have embarked upon the joint elimination of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The parties agreed:<sup>5136</sup>

- To develop the details of activity implementation plans for each program,
- To establish the coordination mechanism and service pathway for disease control and prevention of AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,
- To monitor and evaluate the existing joint activities on AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria,
- To evaluate the progress of the baseline assessment for malaria.

On 26 August 2019, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said the government intends to set aside IDR48.8 trillion for healthcare in the 2020 state budget (IDR26.7 trillion in 2019) to take into account the increased subsidy for the poor so they can afford their health insurance.<sup>5137</sup>

On 4 October 2019, the Indonesian Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO Indonesia and other implementing partners, launched the fifth and final round of Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Campaign in Malaka District, East Nusa Tenggara. The campaign is called “Bulan Eliminasi Kaki Gajah (BELKAGA),” or “LF Elimination Month.” The campaign aims to accelerate the delivery of preventive chemotherapy medicine to high-risk populations within 118 endemic districts. It is running in conjunction with the annual Mass Drugs Administration for the entire eligible population which

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<sup>5134</sup> Government has created an online data pool on <https://covidwarriors.gov.in> of doctors including AYUSH doctors, nurses and other health care professionals, volunteers from NYKs, NCC NSS, PMGKVY, ex Servicemen etc for use by the ground level administration at state, district or municipal levels.

<sup>5135</sup> Risk Mapping for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) 07 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020.

[https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-\(eid\)](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-(eid))

<sup>5136</sup> The 3rd Cross Border Meeting between the Republic of Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on AIDS, TB, and Malaria 28 August 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/28-08-2019-the-3rd-cross-border-meeting-between-the-republic-of-indonesia-and-the-democratic-republic-of-timor-leste-on-aids-tb-and-malaria>

<sup>5137</sup> Bitter Pill to Swallow: Should BPJS Kesehatan Increase Premium to Cover Deficit? 26 August 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://jakartaglobe.id/news/bitter-pill-to-swallow-should-bpjs-kesehatan-increase-premium-to-cover-deficit/>

began on 1 October and is expected to be completed by 31 October 2019. The National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Programme aims to eliminate the disease by delivering single annual doses of diethylcarbamazine citrate and albendazole to all eligible populations living in endemic districts.<sup>5138</sup>

In October 2019, the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO Indonesia facilitated antimicrobial resistance (AMR) awareness sessions at universities in three cities across Indonesia: Udayana University, Gadjah Mada University, and Padjajaran University under World Antibiotic Awareness Week 2019 (annually organized by WHO). The sessions targeted medical, dentistry, veterinary, public health, nursing, and pharmaceutical students to sensitise them on the issues of AMR, including the use of antibiotics and the concept of the One Health approach that covers human health, veterinary health, and environmental health. The lectures also highlighted the compliance of health professionals with infection prevention control measures.<sup>5139</sup>

On 16-17 October 2019, in Riau, West Sumatra, in order to improve local and national EIDs preparedness and to improve the capacity for detection and response to potential public health emergencies the Ministry of Health in cooperation with WHO Indonesia hold local EID risk mapping workshop.<sup>5140</sup>

On 20 and 22 November 2019, the Ministry of Manpower in cooperation with the International Labour Organization conducted two-day workshop titled “Strategic Programme Development on HIV/AIDS Prevention at the Workplace 2020-2024” with participation of various relevant ministries, private sector, workers’ organizations, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies. Making the best use of digitalization and social media channel, greater public and trade union involvement and advocacy as well as sensitization HIV programmes for relevant ministries, local governments and enterprises were key activities proposed to be included in the national HIV/AIDS prevention programme in Indonesia. Other proposed action programs included the revitalization of HIV working group and the tax incentive program to attract more companies and industries in HIV prevention program at the workplace.<sup>5141</sup>

On 14 August 2020, Indonesian President Widodo pledged to conduct health care reforms. He said his administration would improve human resources and develop hospitals and health centres, as well as the medicine and medical equipment industry. He did not elaborate on how those efforts would be funded.<sup>5142</sup>

Indonesia has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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<sup>5138</sup> Indonesia launches final round of Mass Drugs Administration (MDA) Campaign to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis 22 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/22-10-2019-indonesia-launches-final-round-of-mass-drugs-administration-\(mda\)-campaign-to-eliminate-lymphatic-filariasis](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/22-10-2019-indonesia-launches-final-round-of-mass-drugs-administration-(mda)-campaign-to-eliminate-lymphatic-filariasis)

<sup>5139</sup> Raising awareness on antimicrobial resistance among university students 14 January 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/14-01-2020-raising-awareness-on-antimicrobial-resistance-among-university-students>

<sup>5140</sup> Risk Mapping for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EID) 07 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-\(eid\)](https://www.who.int/indonesia/news/detail/07-10-2019-risk-mapping-for-emerging-infectious-diseases-(eid))

<sup>5141</sup> Indonesia to develop Strategic Programme on HIV Prevention at the Workplace 2020-2024 27 November 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS\\_733268/lang--en/index.htm](https://www.ilo.org/jakarta/info/public/pr/WCMS_733268/lang--en/index.htm)

<sup>5142</sup> Widodo pledges health, economic reforms amid virus crisis, AP News (Jakarta) 14 August 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020. <https://apnews.com/article/virus-outbreak-health-indonesia-joko-widodo-financial-markets-a9afe0582299c8bae89882109c8b61556>

**Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 9 September 2019, the Ministry of Health announced the call for researchers to present their research projects aimed at developing innovative procedures in prevention, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation. The Ministry of Health allocated EUR100 million to be distributed among the researchers, who's proposals would be approved.<sup>5143</sup>

On 4 October 2019, the national self-sufficiency program for blood and its products, for the year 2019 was published in the Official Gazette. The 2019 program identified the annual objectives, consumption levels, production levels required, compensation and monitoring of the self-sufficiency of blood components.<sup>5144</sup>

On 14 December 2019, the Ministry of Health highlighted the healthcare measures taken during the first 100 days of the new Government. Among these measures: EUR2 billion allocated for National Healthcare Fund, EUR2 billion allocated for healthcare infrastructure modernization and construction.<sup>5145</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the Ministry of Health hosted the first meeting of the task-orce convened to coordinate the government healthcare response to the COVID-19 outbreak.<sup>5146</sup>

On 23 February 2020, the government approved the law on urgent measures to contain the spread of COVID-19, allocating EUR20 million to cover the costs, associated with the initial stages of the national health emergency.<sup>5147</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the government issued a new law on increasing the national healthcare service capacities to contain the spread of COVID-19. The measures included financial stimuli for overtime medical workers worth EUR250 million, measures to strengthen surveillance worth EUR5 million in 2020.<sup>5148</sup>

On 25 June 2020, the Italian Government started to publish daily COVID-19 data sheet, containing immediate epidemiological data and give a complete picture of the spread of COVID-19 throughout

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<sup>5143</sup> Bando della ricerca finalizzata 2019, fondi per 100 milioni di euro, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 9 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3877](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3877).

<sup>5144</sup> Sangue, programma di autosufficienza nazionale 2019, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3937](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3937).

<sup>5145</sup> Bilancio dei primi cento giorni di governo in materia di salute, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 14 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

[http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3\\_2\\_1\\_1\\_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3995](http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/news/p3_2_1_1_1.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=3995).

<sup>5146</sup> Coronavirus 2019-nCoV: riunita la task-force del Ministero della Salute, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

<http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioComunicatiNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=italiano&menu=salastampa&p=comunicatistampa&id=5373>.

<sup>5147</sup> Decreto Legge del 23 febbraio 2020 n.6 — Misure urgenti in materia di contenimento e gestione dell'emergenza epidemologica da COVID-19, Italian Government (Rome) 23 February 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020.

<http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/amministrazione-trasparente/provvedimenti/-/content-view/view/1215252>.

<sup>5148</sup> Misure di potenziamento del Servizio sanitario nazionale, Gazzetta Ufficiale Della Repubblica Italiana (Rome) 17 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. [http://www.governo.it/sites/new.governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Notizie-allegati/covid-19/decreto\\_20200317.pdf](http://www.governo.it/sites/new.governo.it/files/documenti/documenti/Notizie-allegati/covid-19/decreto_20200317.pdf).

the nation on the Health ministry's website and on the National Civil Protection Department's interactive dashboard map.<sup>5149</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the Italian Ministry of Health published Operational guidelines for SARS-COV-2 case and outbreak management in schools and other educational facilities. This document is aimed at providing a practical support to policy makers, workers in schools and the staff of prevention departments of local health units involved in the monitoring and response to suspect/probable/confirmed cases of COVID-19.<sup>5150</sup>

Italy has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 30 July 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced it would provide emergency relief goods and personal protective equipment per request from the Democratic Republic of the Congo relating to the Ebola virus disease outbreak.<sup>5151</sup>

On 28 October 2019, JICA signed a grant agreement with the government of Cote d'Ivoire, to provide grant aid of up to JPY4,163 billion for the Project for the Development of the University Hospital Center for the improvement of maternal and child health care services in Abidjan.<sup>5152</sup>

On 28 November 2019, JICA signed the Record of Discussions in Teheran for the "Project for Improving Medical Services in Iran through Japan's Medical Management Models" to improve medical services for patients with non-communicable diseases and senior citizens through transferring knowledge of, and experiences in, advanced medical services and related health policies developed in Japan, including increasing the capacity of Iran's health professionals through training programs in medical technology and management.<sup>5153</sup>

On 26 February 2020, JICA signed a grant agreement with the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah to provide grant aid of up to JPY1,955 billion to strengthen the capacity for diagnosis and treatment of

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<sup>5149</sup> Covid-19, all the data on a single site, Italian Government (Rome) 25 June 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <http://www.salute.gov.it/portale/nuovocoronavirus/dettaglioNotizieNuovoCoronavirus.jsp?lingua=english&menu=notizie&p=dalministero&id=4932>.

<sup>5150</sup> Indicazioni operative per la gestione di casi e focolai di SARS-CoV-2 nelle scuole e nei servizi educativi dell'infanzia, Italian Ministry of Health (Rome) 21 August 2020. Access date: 29 August 2020. [http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C\\_17\\_pubblicazioni\\_2944\\_allegato.pdf](http://www.salute.gov.it/imgs/C_17_pubblicazioni_2944_allegato.pdf).

<sup>5151</sup> Emergency Assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Response to the Ebola Virus Disease Outbreak in the eastern part of the country, JICA 30 July 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20190730\\_40.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/field/2019/20190730_40.html)

<sup>5152</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Cote d'Ivoire: Contributing to the improvement of maternal and child health care through the construction of a maternal and child health care annex, JICA 28 October 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191028\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191028_41_en.html)

<sup>5153</sup> Signing of the Record of Discussions for Technical Cooperation for Iran: Learning from Japan's medical management models to improve Iran's medical services, JICA 28 November 2019. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191128\\_41\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191128_41_en.html)

non-communicable diseases at core hospitals in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip through the supply of medical equipment for countermeasures against non-communicable diseases.<sup>5154</sup>

On 6 March 2020, screening for the novel coronavirus was included into coverage by the national health insurance.<sup>5155</sup>

On 10 March 2020, a task force set up by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe approved a JPY430 billion (USD4.1 billion) package that includes support for small to medium-size businesses hit by the (COVID-19) coronavirus outbreak, subsidies for parents who need to take time off work due to school closures, funding for development of virus vaccines and test kits and for extra production of protective masks; and announced further plans to provide JPY1.6 trillion (USD15 billion) in interest-free, no collateral loans to help such companies manage the crisis.<sup>5156</sup>

Japan has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 9 July 2019, the government announced a new regulation on healthcare insurance for foreigners living in the country. From now on, foreign nationals who are planning to stay in Korea for more than six month are obliged to enroll in the state health insurance plan.<sup>5157</sup>

On 28 January 2020, the government announced the allocation of USD17.7 million (KRW20.8 billion) from the national budget to combat the spread of coronavirus namely KRW6.7 billion set aside for building a quarantine system, KRW5.2 billion for diagnosis and KRW2.9 billion for isolated treatment.<sup>5158</sup>

On 4 March 2020, the government allocated extra USD9.9 billion to fight against the spread of coronavirus, especially its economic consequences.<sup>5159</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the state-run Export-Import Bank of Korea announced its intention to allocate extra funds to support the country's pharmaceutical companies. The money will go to Korean companies devoted to immunotherapy, gene therapy, health care systems, diagnostic kits and medical

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<sup>5154</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Palestine: Contributing to the improvement of medical care services and health finance through the provision of medical equipment, JICA 26 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200226\\_41.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200226_41.html)

<sup>5155</sup> Coronavirus testing now covered by Japan's national insurance, Japan Times 6 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/03/06/national/science-health/covid-19-tests-japan-national-insurance/#.XnkNKeozapp>

<sup>5156</sup> Japan unveils US\$4bil package to fight Covid-19, The Star 10 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2019. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/03/10/japan-unveils-us4bil-package-to-fight-covid-19>

<sup>5157</sup> State Health Insurance to Become Mandatory for Foreigners in Korea 6 Months or Longer, KBS World Radio (Seoul) 09 July 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. [http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news\\_view.htm?lang=e&Seq\\_Code=146515](http://world.kbs.co.kr/service/news_view.htm?lang=e&Seq_Code=146515)

<sup>5158</sup> S. Korea to spend W20.8b to combat spread of coronavirus, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 28 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200128000704&np=57&mp=6>

<sup>5159</sup> S. Korea drafts W11.7tr extra budget plan to fight coronavirus, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 04 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200304000276&np=41&mp=5>



devices. It will be used to support them in exporting more products, clinching more overseas investment and expanding to foreign markets.<sup>5160</sup>

On 14 May 2020, the government eased the regulations on telemedicine services. New regulations allow doctors to treat coronavirus patients with mild symptoms via video.<sup>5161</sup>

Korea is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 21 October 2019, Secretary of Health Jorge Alcocer Varela announced the Wellness Doctors program, aimed at increasing health personnel in rural, marginalized, vulnerable and remote areas, for which the call was launched for doctors and general practitioners, specialists and nurses, who wish to participate in the transformation of the community health system.<sup>5162</sup>

On 11 November 2019, the Ministry of Health issued the call to recruit professionals (doctors, nurses, dentists, health promoters) committed and with a high sense of ethics to work in the most marginal regions of the country.<sup>5163</sup>

On 9 January 2020, the Government of Mexico activated a response plan, which includes preventive travel notice, media monitoring, identification of suspected cases in passengers internationals from China. Since January 16, the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (Indre), established the diagnostic protocols following the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). The National Liaison Center for International Health Regulations is in continuous communication with WHO and the countries of the affected region.<sup>5164</sup>

On 16 January 2020, it was announced that the new health system will be introduced in Mexico. New system will be in charge of providing, guaranteeing the free provision of health services, the full supply of medicines and other associated supplies, to people without social security. The health

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<sup>5160</sup> Eximbank Korea to create health care funds worth W400b, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 06 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200406000968&np=24&mp=3>

<sup>5161</sup> S. Korea to actively consider telemedicine services amid coronavirus pandemic, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 14 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20200514000688&np=5&mp=1>

<sup>5162</sup> 295. En Palacio Nacional, el secretario Alcocer presenta Plan Nacional de Salud e Instituto de Salud para el Bienestar (Insabi), Mexican Government (Mexico City) 21 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/295-en-palacio-nacional-el-secretario-alcocer-presenta-plan-nacional-de-salud-e-instituto-de-salud-para-el-bienestar-insabi>

<sup>5163</sup> Convocatoria Abierta a Médicos/as Generales, Especialistas y Enfermeros/as para conformar el equipo de Salud del Bienestar, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud%7Cseguropopular/articulos/convocatoria-abierta-a-medicos-generales-especialistas-y-enfermeros-para-conformar-el-equipo-de-salud-del-bienestar>

<sup>5164</sup> 015. Acciones de preparación y respuesta ante nuevo coronavirus (2019- nCoV) para la protección de la salud en México, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/015-acciones-de-preparacion-y-respuesta-ante-nuevo-coronavirus-2019-ncov-para-la-proteccion-de-la-salud-en-mexico>

system will function under the principles of universality, reduction of inequality and fight against corruption.<sup>5165</sup>

On 21 January 2020, an “Epidemiological Notice” was issued to inform the methods for the timely identification of suspicious cases in Mexico and the pertinent preventive measures. submission to the Institute of Epidemiological Diagnosis and Reference (InDRE), as well as its follow-up until the remission of your disease, including its final classification and study of direct contacts.<sup>5166</sup>

On 27 January 2020, in Colima, staff from the Health Institute for Wellbeing started the course for Managers of Social Participation in Health and toured hospitals and health centres as part of the coordination to guarantee free medical care and medicines to the population. The activities were led by the head of the National Medical Coordination, Alejandro Ernesto Svarch Pérez, and the Secretary of State Health, Leticia Delgado, along with the representative in Mexico of the Pan American Health Organization Óscar Martínez.<sup>5167</sup>

On 30 January 2020, the “Standardized Guidelines for Epidemiological Surveillance and by Disease Laboratory by COVID-2019” were published, through which the actions of the National Health System are standardized to identify suspected cases of the new disease, treat them and study them, as well as your contacts. Procedures are also defined for taking biological samples and confirming or ruling out the presence of the new virus, using laboratory techniques. In addition, a chapter for “International Surveillance” is included that describes algorithms and procedures by international health services at air and maritime entry points.<sup>5168</sup>

On 10 February 2020, the preparation of the “Medical Care Guidelines” for application in general and family medical consultation, general hospitals and high-specialty hospitals, in urban and rural areas, was completed. These guidelines provide each health unit in the country, public or private, with the standardized frame of reference, to provide medical care to suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-2019 disease. Also, they guide the programming of the acquisition of the necessary health supplies in possible scenarios of spread and epidemic intensity.<sup>5169</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Minister Alcocer released recommendations for health personnel on the COVID-19 outbreak where medical personnel can find important information about prevention

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<sup>5165</sup> El sistema de salud funcionará bajo los principios de universalidad, reducción de la desigualdad y combate a la corrupción, Mexican Government 16 January 2020. Access date: 2 October 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/insabi/prensa/006-el-sistema-de-salud-funcionara-bajo-los-principios-de-universalidad-reduccion-de-la-desigualdad-y-combate-a-la-corrupcion?idiom=es>

<sup>5166</sup> 015. Acciones de preparación y respuesta ante nuevo coronavirus (2019- nCoV) para la protección de la salud en México, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/015-acciones-de-preparacion-y-respuesta-ante-nuevo-coronavirus-2019-ncov-para-la-proteccion-de-la-salud-en-mexico>

<sup>5167</sup> Personal del Instituto de Salud para el Bienestar inició en Colima el curso para Gestores de Participación Social en Salud, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 27 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/insabi/es/articulos/personal-del-instituto-de-salud-para-el-bienestar-inicio-en-colima-el-curso-para-gestores-de-participacion-social-en-salud?idiom=es>

<sup>5168</sup> 054. México cuenta con lineamientos para vigilancia epidemiológica, diagnóstico y atención por coronavirus COVID-2019, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/mexico-cuenta-con-lineamientos-para-la-vigilancia-epidemiologica-diagnostico-por-laboratorio-y-atencion-medica-de-personas-con-sospecha-o-confirmacion-al-nuevo-coronavirus-covid-2019?idiom=es>

<sup>5169</sup> 054. México cuenta con lineamientos para vigilancia epidemiológica, diagnóstico y atención por coronavirus COVID-2019, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 11 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020.

<https://www.gob.mx/salud/prensa/mexico-cuenta-con-lineamientos-para-la-vigilancia-epidemiologica-diagnostico-por-laboratorio-y-atencion-medica-de-personas-con-sospecha-o-confirmacion-al-nuevo-coronavirus-covid-2019?idiom=es>

measures in health units, as well as relevant documents to carry out health promotion actions, epidemiological surveillance and disease prevention.<sup>5170</sup>

On 27 February 2020, Director General of the Institute of Security and Social Services for State Workers Luis Antonio Ramírez Pineda assured that the first level of care will be strengthened to make it more decisive and promote prevention in patients. The permanent training workshops for first-level doctors and specialists will increase. He also stressed that the problems in surgery will be solved with the purchase and change of equipment; in addition to incorporating resident doctors to the staff of clinics and hospitals.<sup>5171</sup>

Mexico is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 2 September 2019, President Vladimir Putin endorsed a list of instructions issued as a follow-up to the meeting on primary healthcare modernization held on 20 August 2019. He instructed the Government of Russia to draft principles for upgrading primary health care; to analyse, jointly with the regional executive authorities, the condition of first-line healthcare, including the assessment of wages in primary care and the degree of wear and tear of the medical equipment, vehicles and buildings of the relevant medical institutions; and to organise the drafting of regional programmes to upgrade primary care in the regions.<sup>5172</sup>

On 2 October 2019, President Putin held a meeting on upgrading primary healthcare. He discussed the principles of upgrading primary healthcare drafted in accordance with his previous instructions, and asked the government to provide the resources for funding regional programmes in this area, and improve the pay system for medical workers.<sup>5173</sup>

On 31 October 2019, President Putin chaired an expanded meeting of the State Council Presidium on Russian regions' tasks in healthcare. He highlighted that the regions must adopt their regional programmes of primary healthcare modernization before 1 July 2020. He also asked the Ministry of Healthcare and other governmental departments to provide comprehensive assistance and support to the regions in this regard.<sup>5174</sup>

On 25 December 2019, President Putin chaired a meeting of the Council for Strategic Development and National Projects. He informed that to increase the availability of primary health care in the

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<sup>5170</sup> Recomendaciones Para Personal De Salud, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 22 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/salud/documentos/informacion-para-personal-de-salud>

<sup>5171</sup> Atacar el rezago quirúrgico y capacitar al personal médico, base del nuevo modelo de salud en el ISSSTE: Ramírez Pineda, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 27 February 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/issste/prensa/atacar-el-rezago-quirurgico-y-capacitar-al-personal-medico-base-del-nuevo-modelo-de-salud-en-el-issste-ramirez-pineda?idiom=es-MX>

<sup>5172</sup> Instructions following meeting on primary healthcare modernisation, President of Russia 2 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/acts/news/61434>.

<sup>5173</sup> Meeting on upgrading primary healthcare, President of Russia 2 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61706>.

<sup>5174</sup> Meeting of State Council Presidium on healthcare in Russian regions, President of Russia 31 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/61942>.

regions, 432 new medical outpatient clinics would be created in Russia. The regions also purchased 517 mobile medical complexes.<sup>5175</sup>

On 15 April 2020, President Putin instructed the government to simplify the procedure and reduce the time for preclinical and clinical trials and state registration of immunobiological drugs for the prevention of communicable diseases (including vaccines for the prevention of COVID-2019), as well as to introduce the possibility of conducting clinical studies in parallel with preclinical research.<sup>5176</sup>

On 17 April 2020, President Putin held a meeting on the construction and repurposing of medical institutions to treat patients with the coronavirus infection in the Russian regions. He informed that over RUB50 billion had been earmarked to support regional healthcare, including over RUB33 billion for reequipping in-patient facilities and fitting out beds for coronavirus patients and another RUB17.7 billion for purchasing modern medical equipment, including ling ventilators and ambulances. In addition, the government allocated over RUB78 billion to finance the process of repurposing regional and federal healthcare facility beds.<sup>5177</sup>

From 17 April to 15 May 2020, 16 new multifunctional medical centres built by the Defence Ministry to help coronavirus patients were opened across Russia, from Kaliningrad to Kamchatka. They were built in record-breaking time and to a high standard. High-level, skilled medical teams were formed for the new centres as over 2,000 doctors, nurses and other medical staff underwent additional training at the Kirov Military Medical Academy in St Petersburg.<sup>5178</sup>

On 28 April 2020, President Putin held a videoconference meeting with heads of the Russian regions on countering the spread of COVID-19. He instructed the government, inter alia, to build new hospitals and diagnostic centres, to continuously monitor the situation in the country in general, and in every region specifically, and to regularly update its plans with regard to COVID-19, and take additional measures to strengthen the capacities of the healthcare sector.<sup>5179</sup>

On 6 May 2020, President Putin signed an Executive Order offering additional insurance guarantees to healthcare workers, similar to those granted to Armed Forces personnel. This insurance coverage applies to everyone who contributed to fighting the COVID-19 epidemic.<sup>5180</sup>

On 30 June 2020, five additional multifunctional medical centres built by the Defence Ministry to help coronavirus patients were opened across Russia.<sup>5181</sup>

On 15 September 2020, two new multifunctional medical centres built by the Defence Ministry to help coronavirus patients were opened in Pskov Region.<sup>5182</sup>

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<sup>5175</sup> Meeting of Council for Strategic Development and National Projects, President of Russia 25 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020 <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/62411>.

<sup>5176</sup> List of instructions on countering the spread of new coronavirus infection (COVID-2019) in the regions of the Russian Federation, President of Russia 15 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://kremlin.ru/acts/assignments/orders/63206>.

<sup>5177</sup> Meeting on construction and repurposing of medical institutions in the regions, President of Russia 17 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63212>.

<sup>5178</sup> Opening of Defence Ministry's medical centres for treating patients with COVID-19, President of Russia 15 May 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63355>.

<sup>5179</sup> Meeting with regional heads on countering the spread of the coronavirus, President of Russia 28 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63288>.

<sup>5180</sup> Meeting on sanitary and epidemiological situation, President of Russia 11 May 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63340>.

<sup>5181</sup> Opening Defence Ministry COVID-19 medical centres, President of Russia 30 June 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63586>.

Russia has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 30 July 2019, the Ministry of Health launched the Medical Referral Program “Ehalati” in the Holy Sites of the Kingdom. The program is an e-system meant to facilitate the procedures of referring patients between hospitals of the region or between the health affairs directorates. This referral process is electronically done at the different health levels (primary, secondary, specialized, or reference), based on the medical decision; either due to the lack of medical service or a bed for the patient.<sup>5183</sup>

On 12 September 2019, the Ministry of Health signed a memorandum of understanding with the Projects Support Fund to establish cooperation frameworks between the two sides in areas of joint competence in accordance with their respective roles and in light with the regulations and policies in order to achieve Vision 2030 and improve competitiveness in the municipal sector. The two sides seek to achieve three main objectives, including: expanding the scope of health projects loans, developing targeted strategic stimulus, and developing procedures for a joint action.<sup>5184</sup>

On 30 October 2019, the Ministry of Health organized a workshop on health design challenges. The workshop aims at creation of new and applicable opportunities with clear methodology, identification of problems and generation of ideas that would lead to new innovative solutions.<sup>5185</sup>

On 12–14 November 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an international conference under the title “The Future of Health Facilities Management.” According to the ministry, the conference is an international platform for the exchange of ideas and strategies among thought pioneers, specialists, institutions, companies and government agencies specialized in healthcare provision.<sup>5186</sup>

On 17 November 2019, the Ministry of Health launched an influenza vaccination campaign. The service was launched in 15 cities for the period from 17 to 21 November 2019. The ministry aims to

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<sup>5182</sup> Opening of medical centres in Pskov Region, President of Russia 15 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64035>.

<sup>5183</sup> MOH: «Ehalati» Program Launched at Hospitals of the Holy Sites, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 30 July 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/news-2019-07-30-003.aspx>

<sup>5184</sup> MOH Signs MOU with Projects Support Fund. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 12 September 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-09-12-001.aspx>

<sup>5185</sup> MOH Organizes a Workshop on Health Design Challenge, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 30 October 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-10-30-005.aspx>

<sup>5186</sup> 3rd International Conference of Saudi Society for Health Administration to be Launched Next Tuesday, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 10 November 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-11-10-002.aspx>

cover the largest possible number of service seekers, expecting that the elderly will benefit most from the service.<sup>5187</sup>

On 10–13 December 2019, the Ministry of Health organized an international conference for mass gatherings medicine. The conference attracted more than 100 participants from 30 countries. The experts discussed the latest developments in the field.<sup>5188</sup>

On 07 January 2020, the Ministry of Health launched an e-platform for health awareness “Live Well.” The ministry aims to make this account the main reference for reliable health information. The “Live Well” page will provide basic and various health information about the health of all strata of society, from childhood to old age.<sup>5189</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the Ministry of Health represented by the Community Participation Program, organized the first Forum of Emerging Health Associations. The forum comes in line with the role of the Community Participation Program to empower the national health associations for integration with the Ministry of Health and meeting community health requirements.<sup>5190</sup>

On 3 March 2020, the Ministry of Health posted on its Twitter account an infographic explaining how to wash hands appropriately. This comes as part of the ministry’s health-awareness efforts meant to control COVID-19, and a continuation of the series of educational materials it posts on the various media platforms.<sup>5191</sup>

On 4 March 2020, the Ministry of Health tightened the restrictive measures at land ports amid growing number of confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus. These measures include screening all incoming passengers for symptoms of COVID-19-related diseases and mandatory disclosure of previously visited countries.<sup>5192</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (Weqaya) posted on its official social media accounts a series of preventive guidelines meant to combat the spread of COVID-19. They include the steps to follow when during travels, at public places, mosques, workplaces, and at home.<sup>5193</sup>

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<sup>5187</sup> MOH Launches Flu Vaccination Service at Homes, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 17 November 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-11-17-001.aspx>

<sup>5188</sup> 100 Experts from 30 Countries Participate in 4th International Conference for Mass Gatherings Medicine, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 04 December 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2019-12-04-005.aspx>

<sup>5189</sup> MOH Launches e-Platform for Health Awareness “Live Well”, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 07 January 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-01-07-004.aspx>

<sup>5190</sup> MOH Organizes First Emerging Health Association Forum Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 13 February 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-02-13-001.aspx>

<sup>5191</sup> MOH’s Guidelines for Sound Handwashing. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 03 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-03-005.aspx>

<sup>5192</sup> MOH: Preventive Surveillance Measures Tightened at Land Ports. Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 04 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-04-001.aspx>

<sup>5193</sup> ‘Weqaya’ Center Releases Preventive Guidelines to Combat Novel Coronavirus, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 05 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-05-006.aspx>

On 12 March 2020, the Ministry of Health introduced a new tool for assessment of health risks in gatherings and public places.<sup>5194</sup>

On 17 March 2020, the Ministry of Health issued awareness guidelines on necessary precautionary measures for protection against the novel coronavirus in six languages besides Arabic.<sup>5195</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the Ministry of Health published awareness tips highlighting the proper ways of home quarantine and other precautionary measures using its Twitter account.<sup>5196</sup>

On 11 April 2020, the Ministry of Health launched a new application to curb the spread of COVID-19. The Tatman app is aimed at providing protection and healthcare to citizens and residents who are self-isolating or in quarantine. The app provides many services including, examination results, updating data of those who were in contact with confirmed cases, daily follow-up of the health status and epidemiological investigation.<sup>5197</sup>

On 10 June 2020, Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz has approved several decisions taken by the Saudi Health Council, including a national plan for the development of enhancing patient safety and the quality of services in the Kingdom's health sectors.<sup>5198</sup>

On 22 July 2020, the Ministry of Health has released a guidance on homestay procedures for COVID-19 patients through its Twitter page and awareness platform. The guide includes a definition of the cases to be isolated (confirmed and suspected cases).<sup>5199</sup>

Saudi Arabia is taking steps aimed at further improvement of public health surveillance system and personal training as well as improvement of institutional architecture in the public health sphere.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

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<sup>5194</sup> Global Center for Mass Gathering Medicine Deploys 'Salem Tool' in COVID-19 Fight, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 12 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020.

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-12-001.aspx>

<sup>5195</sup> MOH Issues COVID-19 Awareness Guidelines in Many Languages, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 17 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020

<https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-17-001.aspx>

<sup>5196</sup> MOH Outlines Procedures for Self-Isolation, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 18 March 2020. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-18-004.aspx>

<sup>5197</sup> MOH Launches New App (Tatman) to Prevent COVID-19, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (Riyadh) 11 April 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-04-11-004.aspx>

<sup>5198</sup> Saudi King Salman approves Saudi Health Council steps to improve health care system, Al Arabiya 10 June 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2020/06/10/Saudi-King-Salman-approves-Saudi-Health-Council-steps-to-improve-health-care-system>

<sup>5199</sup> MOH: Home Isolation Guide for COVID-19 Patients, the Ministry of Health of Saudi Arabia 22 July 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-07-22-001.aspx>

On 23 January 2020, the National Institute for Communicable Diseases developed clinical guidelines on the novel coronavirus for medical practitioners in South Africa. The guide contains basic information concerning the common signs of infection and possible ways of transmission of the virus.<sup>5200</sup>

On 12 May 2020, the Government of South Africa has announced the allocation of extra SAR 5 billion (approximately USD 288 million) funding to support the local municipalities in fight against the spread of COVID-19. This support is assisting municipalities to provide additional access to basic services for vulnerable communities during the lockdown and to sanitize public transport facilities as the economy undergoes a phased re-opening.<sup>5201</sup>

On 24 June 2020, Finance Minister Tito Mboweni has made R145bn available to fund the government's COVID-19 efforts. He said that the allocations had been informed by "epidemiological modelling," as well as the government's experience of the pandemic.<sup>5202</sup>

South Africa is taking steps aimed at personal trainings as well as improvement of other aspects of public health have been found.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignator*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with the commitment on improving public health preparedness and response.

On 24-25 June 2019, Turkey's fourth National Field Epidemiology Conference was held in Ankara; the conference was attended by representatives of World Health Organization, Training Program in Epidemiology and Public Health Network, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and other relevant organizations, to share recent developments to improve qualifications and skills of the healthcare professionals about the field epidemiology.<sup>5203</sup>

On 2 July 2019, Turkey's HIV/AIDS Control Program 2019-2024 aimed to create a road map to alleviating risk factors and preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS was launched; Turkey's HIV/AIDS Diagnosis and Treatment Guide 2019 was presented by Deputy Minister of Health Emine Alp Meşe, who also announced that all Turkey's citizens diagnosed with HIV are granted access to disease examination and innovative treatment services free of charge within the scope of general health insurance.<sup>5204</sup>

On 4 August 2019, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan opened a city hospital complex in the province of Bursa with a capacity of 1355 beds and equipped with latest technology medical equipment, which became the 10th city hospital opened within large-scale government program of upgrading the

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<sup>5200</sup> NICD has measures in place to detect coronavirus in SA, Eyewitness News 23 January 2020. Access date: 25 March 2020. <https://ewn.co.za/2020/01/23/nicd-has-measures-in-place-to-detect-coronavirus-in-sa>

<sup>5201</sup> Clarity on financial support of R5 billion in support to municipalities for COVID-19 response, National Treasury of South Africa (Pretoria) 12 May 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. [http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm\\_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Covid-19%20support%20for%20municipalities.pdf](http://www.treasury.gov.za/comm_media/press/2020/20200512%20Media%20statement%20-%20Covid-19%20support%20for%20municipalities.pdf)

<sup>5202</sup> Another R145bn for COVID-19 fight in supplementary budget, Medical Brief 24 June 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/another-r145bn-for-covid-19-fight-in-supplementary-budget/>

<sup>5203</sup> 4th National Field Epidemiology Conference in Ankara, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 25 June 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,55772/4th-national-field-epidemiology-conference-in-ankara.html>

<sup>5204</sup> Road Map to Fight with HIV/AIDS for 2019-2024, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 2 July 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,56113/road-map-to-fight-with-hiv-aids-for-2019-2024.html>



country's medical infrastructure; the Bursa hospital investment through public-private partnership totaled USD542 billion and will benefit six million patients of the region.<sup>5205</sup>

On 2 October 2019, it was reported that Advisory Board for Hospital Infections Prevention and Control bringing together infectious diseases and clinical microbiology, medical microbiology and intensive care specialists, pediatricians and infection control nurses was created to prevent health-related infections.<sup>5206</sup>

On 20 December 2019, the Ministry of Health published its Strategic Plan for the 2019-2023 period; the plan sets out the aims and purposes of the strategy in order to achieve the goals determined for the healthcare sector until 2023, specifies key performance indicators, details the preparation process, and provides an analysis of the current state of the country's healthcare.<sup>5207</sup> The two main goals of the plan are (1) ensuring and improving public health, and (2) ensuring equal public access to quality medical and healthcare services; the goals are intended to be achieved through:<sup>5208</sup>

- Promoting and popularizing healthy living,
- Strengthening of primary healthcare services and increasing their efficiency within the healthcare system,
- Ensuring the accessibility, efficiency and quality of healthcare services,
- Implementing an integrated healthcare services model,
- Enhancing customer and healthcare personnel satisfaction and sustainability, and
- Contributing to the socio-economic development of Turkey and to global health, as well as improving national technology and domestic production in medical sectors.

On 16 October 2019, it was reported that Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency organized a training program in Turkey for Moldovan health professionals in the fields of general surgery, cardiology, neurology, and radiology.<sup>5209</sup>

On 12 November 2019, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca and Khazakhstan's Minister of Health Yelzhan Birtanov signed a memorandum of understanding on health investments, under which

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<sup>5205</sup> Erdogan opens Turkey's 10th city hospital complex, Anadolu Agency 4 August 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/erdogan-opens-turkeys-10th-city-hospital-complex/1549509>

<sup>5206</sup> Advisory Board for Hospital Infections Prevention and Control, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 2 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,57610/advisory-board-for-hospital-infections-prevention-and-control.html>

<sup>5207</sup> Turkey: The Ministry Of Health Publishes Its Strategic Plan For 2019-2023, Mondaq 9 March 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Food-Drugs-Healthcare-Life-Sciences/901634/The-Ministry-Of-Health-Publishes-Its-Strategic-Plan-For-2019-2023>

<sup>5208</sup> Turkey: The Ministry Of Health Publishes Its Strategic Plan For 2019-2023, Mondaq 9 March 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.mondaq.com/turkey/Food-Drugs-Healthcare-Life-Sciences/901634/The-Ministry-Of-Health-Publishes-Its-Strategic-Plan-For-2019-2023>

<sup>5209</sup> Training for the Healthcare Professionals of the Aziz Sancar Diagnostic and Treatment Center, TIKa 16 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/training\\_for\\_the\\_healthcare\\_professionals\\_of\\_the\\_aziz\\_sancar\\_diagnostic\\_and\\_treatment\\_center-53810](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/training_for_the_healthcare_professionals_of_the_aziz_sancar_diagnostic_and_treatment_center-53810)

Kazakhstan plans to construct nine hospitals through public-private partnership scheme operated by Turkey's USHAŞ International Health Services Inc.<sup>5210</sup>

On 25 December 2019, the Health Sciences University Ibn-i Sina Faculty and Vocational School opened in Bukhara under coordination of Turkey. It enables further transfer to Uzbekistan of the modern medical training and allied healthcare services model successfully implemented in Turkey.<sup>5211</sup>

On 15 January 2020, an oncology rehabilitation centre in the National Cancer Center of the Ministry of Health of Mongolia, built with support of Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency, was inaugurated. It will serve an average of 16,000 patients each year in order to raise public awareness about cancer, provide accurate information to patients, and reduce psychological breakdowns during cancer treatment.<sup>5212</sup>

Turkey has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 18 December 2019, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that nursing students will benefit from guaranteed, additional support of at least GBP5,000 a year to help with living costs. The funding will be given to all new and continuing degree-level nursing, midwifery and many allied health students from September 2020. It is expected to benefit more than 35,000 students every year.<sup>5213</sup>

On 26 February 2020, a new surveillance system to detect cases of COVID-19 in England was established by Public Health England (PHE) and the National Health Service (NHS) to strengthen existing systems and to prepare for and prevent wider transmission of the virus. Samples will be tested from patients with severe respiratory infections who do not meet the current case definition for COVID-19. Depending on the results, patients will be given the support they need and rapid public health actions will be taken. A programme of testing with a network of around 100 primary care sites across England will also complement the detection system in hospitals, so that both mild and more unwell cases can be found.<sup>5214</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the UK government and the Chief Scientific Adviser backed the UK's leading clinicians and scientists to map how COVID-19 spreads and behaves by using whole genome

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<sup>5210</sup> Memorandum of Understanding between Turkey and Kazakhstan in the field of Health Investments, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 12 November 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,58502/memorandum-of-understanding-between-turkey-and-kazakhstan-in-the-field-of-health-investments.html>

<sup>5211</sup> Turkey provides training for Uzbek Physicians, Turkey's Ministry of Health, 25 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.saglik.gov.tr/EN,61781/turkey-provides-training-for-uzbek-physicians.html>

<sup>5212</sup> TİKA Built an Oncology Rehabilitation Center in Mongolia, TİKA 15 January 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika\\_built\\_an\\_oncology\\_rehabilitation\\_center\\_in\\_mongolia-55327](https://www.tika.gov.tr/en/news/tika_built_an_oncology_rehabilitation_center_in_mongolia-55327)

<sup>5213</sup> Nursing students to receive £5,000 payment a year, UK Government 18 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nursing-students-to-receive-5-000-payment-a-year>.

<sup>5214</sup> New surveillance system for early detection of COVID-19, UK Government 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-surveillance-system-for-early-detection-of-covid-19>.

sequencing. Through a GBP20 million investment, the consortium will look for breakthroughs that help the UK respond to this and future pandemics.<sup>5215</sup>

On 23 March 2020, PHE informed on continuation of the Field Epidemiology Training Programme. This two-year program is aimed at medical, nursing, scientific, or veterinary staff who are, or whose future career may be, in a post involving field investigation and epidemiology and who want to further enhance their specialist skills. The program provides training and experience to develop the competencies agreed for field epidemiologists in the European Union.<sup>5216</sup>

On 26 March 2020, Parliament adopted the Coronavirus Act 2020.<sup>5217</sup> The act allows recently retired NHS staff and social workers to return to work without any negative repercussions to their pensions. NHS staff are also covered by a state-backed insurance scheme to ensure they can care for patients if, for example, they are moving outside their day-to-day duties while making use of their skills and training. Paperwork and administrative requirements are reduced to help doctors discharge patients more quickly when clinically appropriate, to free up hospital space for those who are very ill and enable clinicians to focus on delivering care. Volunteers will have extra employment safeguards, allowing them to pause their main jobs for up to four weeks while they help care for patients in the health and care system, and will receive a flat rate of compensation to mitigate lost earnings and expenses. This could benefit more than 3 million people who already volunteer in health and care settings and bolster the NHS's capacity to respond to the virus.<sup>5218</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care announced that it recruited almost 1,000 patients from 132 different hospitals in 15 days and found thousands more who are expected to join the Randomised Evaluation of COVID-19 Therapy (RECOVERY) trial in the coming weeks, making it the largest randomised controlled trial of potential COVID-19 treatments in the world.<sup>5219</sup>

On 4 April 2020, the Department of Health and Social Care published the government's COVID-19 testing strategy that lays out how the UK intends to scale up testing programs to deliver on the ambition that anyone who needs a test should have one.<sup>5220</sup>

The UK has taken actions in all three areas of improving public health preparedness and response.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepor*

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<sup>5215</sup> UK launches whole genome sequence alliance to map spread of coronavirus, UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-launches-whole-genome-sequence-alliance-to-map-spread-of-coronavirus>.

<sup>5216</sup> Field Epidemiology Training Programme (FETP), UK Government 23 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/field-epidemiology-training-programme-fetp#history>.

<sup>5217</sup> Coronavirus Act 2020, UK Legislation. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2020/7/contents/enacted/data.htm>

<sup>5218</sup> Emergency bill to strengthen coronavirus (COVID-19) response plans, UK Government 17 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/emergency-bill-to-strengthen-coronavirus-covid-19-response-plans>.

<sup>5219</sup> World's largest trial of potential coronavirus treatments rolled out across the UK, UK Government 3 April 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/worlds-largest-trial-of-potential-coronavirus-treatments-rolled-out-across-the-uk>.

<sup>5220</sup> Coronavirus (COVID-19): scaling up testing programmes, UK Government 4 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-scaling-up-testing-programmes>.

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

The United States has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 18 July 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services awarded around USD20 million through the Health Resources and Services Administration to recipients across 21 states for the purposes of supporting the training of healthcare providers in rural areas. The program is a part of multi-year initiative to expand the physician workforce in rural areas by developing new, sustainable residency programs in family medicine, internal medicine and psychiatry.<sup>5221</sup>

On 8 August 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the investment of around USD400 million to combat the opioid crisis, enabling the funded community health centers, rural organizations and academic institutions to establish and expand access to integrated substance use disorder and mental health services. USD200 million were awarded to 1,208 health centres across the nation to increase access to high quality, integrated behavioral health services, including the prevention or treatment of mental health conditions and/or substance use disorders.<sup>5222</sup>

On 4 September 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of more than USD1.8 billion to states to fight the opioid crisis. The funding was directed at expanding access to treatment and improving monitoring capacities to track data on the drug overdose across the country.<sup>5223</sup>

On 12 September 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD351 million to “56 states, territories and nonprofit organizations through its Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and approximately USD23 million in funding to three new programs aimed at improving maternal health outcomes.” The program, inter alia, included USD2.6 million in funding to Supporting Maternal Health Innovation Program, designed to provide capacity building assistance to maternal health grantees and other stakeholders.<sup>5224</sup>

On 25 October 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD2.27 billion in grants to cities, counties, states, and local community-based organizations, supporting a comprehensive system of HIV primary medical care, medication, and essential support services. Approximately USD628.3 million was awarded to 52 metropolitan areas to provide core medical and support services for people with HIV. USD1.3 billion was awarded to 59 states and territories to improve the quality, availability and organization of HIV health care and support services and for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program. USD181.8 million was awarded across the country to 349 local, community-based

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<sup>5221</sup> HHS awards \$20 million to 27 organizations to increase the rural workforce through the creation of new rural residency programs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 18 July 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/07/18/hhs-awards-20-million-to-27-organizations-to-increase-rural-workforce.html>.

<sup>5222</sup> HHS Awards Nearly \$400 Million to Combat the Opioid Crisis, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 8 August 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/08/08/hhs-awards-nearly-400-million-to-combat-opioid-crisis.html>.

<sup>5223</sup> Trump Administration Announces \$1.8 Billion in Funding to States to Continue Combating Opioid Crisis, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 4 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/04/trump-administration-announces-1-8-billion-funding-states-combating-opioid.html>.

<sup>5224</sup> HHS Awards \$374 Million to Programs Supporting Maternal and Child Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/09/12/hhs-awards-374-million-programs-supporting-maternal-child-health.html>.

organizations to provide core medical and support services to people with HIV. Additionally, 76 organizations were awarded approximately USD10.2 million in Capacity Development grants.<sup>5225</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services released the draft 2020-2025 Federal Health IT [Information Technology] Strategic Plan for public comment. The plan aims to enable individuals to access their electronic health information, manage their health and choose appropriate medical institution in case of need.<sup>5226</sup>

On 27 March 2020, the United States President Donald Trump signed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).<sup>5227</sup> On 8 April 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced the allocation of USD1.9 billion in response to COVID-19 outbreak under the act. The money was allocated to 1,387 health centres across the country. According to the Department of Health and Human Services communication, the funding would support “health centers’ ability to detect, prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19” as well as maintain or increase health center capacity and staff.<sup>5228</sup>

The United States has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment to improve public health preparedness and response.

On 19 September 2019, the European Commission published the outcome, in the format of a Staff Working Document, of an evaluation of the fee system of the European Medicines Agency. The outcome of the evaluation indicates that the current fee system of the agency is generally efficient and effective. However, the acquired experience indicates that it may need to be revised in order to be more flexible to adapt to future developments, including the implementation of the new Veterinary legislation, and also to be more sustainable in the long term.<sup>5229</sup>

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<sup>5225</sup> HHS Awards \$2.27 Billion in Grants to Help Americans Access HIV/AIDS Care, Support Services, and Medication, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 25 October 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2019/10/25/hhs-awards-2-billion-grants-help-americans-access-hiv-care-services-medications.html>.

<sup>5226</sup> Draft Federal Health IT Strategic Plan Supports Patient Access to Their Own Health Information, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/01/15/draft-federal-health-it-strategic-plan-supports-patient-access-health-information.html>.

<sup>5227</sup> S.3548 — CARES Act, United States Congress (Washington) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3548/text?q=product+actualización#toc-id3F19D297D8814FCF8D45C70177412DED>.

<sup>5228</sup> HHS Awards \$1.3 Billion to Health Centers in Historic U.S. Response to COVID-19, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington) 8 April 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/04/08/hhs-awards-billion-to-health-centers-in-historic-covid19-response.html>.

<sup>5229</sup> Medicines: Staff Working Document on the evaluation of the fee system of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and publication for feedback of an Inception Impact Assessment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 September 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=17477&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2019%20Sep%202019&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=17477&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2019%20Sep%202019&lang=default)

On 23 January 2020, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases held its formal meeting in Brussels. The meeting gathered the representatives of member states, the European Investment Bank and several European Commission services to discuss a wide range of public health policies and initiatives. The Steering Group will have a key role in the strategic planning for the health strand of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the health actions of Horizon Europe.<sup>5230</sup>

On 12 February 2020, the European Commission published its fourth progress report on the implementation of the European One Health Action Plan against Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), which was adopted in June 2017. Substantial progress has been made since the last progress report published mid-2019). This includes meetings of the AMR One Health Network and of the Health Security Committee to enhance cooperation and coordination on AMR and One Health visits to member states to support the implementation of national One Health action plans. Other milestones include the publication of two overview reports respectively on measures to tackle AMR through the prudent use of antimicrobials in animals and on a series of audits carried out in 2017 and 2018 in order to evaluate the monitoring and reporting of AMR in zoonotic and commensal bacteria in certain food-producing animal populations and food.<sup>5231</sup>

On 19 March 2020, European Commission decided to create a strategic rescEU stockpile of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective masks to help EU countries in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5232</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the European Commission launched the “COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System” with the aim to support clinicians in hospitals that are currently facing the coronavirus emergency all over Europe.<sup>5233</sup>

On 3 April 2020, the European Commission issued practical guidance to member states to encourage and facilitate cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff. Cooperation across borders can help ease the pressure on overburdened hospitals by transferring patients suffering from coronavirus for treatment in members where hospital places are available. The European Commission will also support members or non-governmental organizations to send qualified teams of medical personnel to offer assistance across borders.<sup>5234</sup>

On 10 April 2020, the European Commission, the European Medicines Agency and the European medicines regulatory network have developed a document to provide guidance to stakeholders on

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<sup>5230</sup> The Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases holds its Formal Meeting, European Commission (Brussels) 23 January 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=19493&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2023%20Jan%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=19493&page=1&fullDate=Thu%2023%20Jan%202020&lang=default)

<sup>5231</sup> AMR: Commission publishes its progress report on Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 12 February 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=19887&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2002%20Dec%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=19887&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2002%20Dec%202020&lang=default)

<sup>5232</sup> COVID-19: Commission creates first ever rescEU stockpile of medical equipment, European Commission (Brussels) 19 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_476](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_476)

<sup>5233</sup> Commission launches “COVID-19 Clinical Management Support System”, European Commission (Brussels) 24 March 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=21060&page=1&fullDate=Fri%2027%20Mar%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=21060&page=1&fullDate=Fri%2027%20Mar%202020&lang=default)

<sup>5234</sup> Coronavirus: Commission encourages and facilitates cross-border treatment of patients and deployment of medical staff, European Commission (Brussels) 3 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip\\_20\\_590](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_20_590)

adaptations to the regulatory framework to address challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on crucial medicines for use in COVID-19 patients. The document explains some regulatory flexibilities that can be applied to help pharmaceutical companies cope with the consequences of the pandemic, while ensuring a high level of quality, safety and efficacy for medicinal products made available to patients in the EU.<sup>5235</sup>

On 13 May 2020, EU members states, with the support of the European Commission, adopted interoperability guidelines for approved contact tracing mobile applications in the EU. This is the first follow-up action envisaged by the toolbox for the use of mobile apps to support contact tracing in response to the coronavirus pandemic presented on 16 April 2020. The guidelines will be complemented by interoperability specifications for cross-border transmission chains between approved apps. This will be supported by structured discussions between members through the eHealth Network. The work of member states to develop and validate the apps will be supported by the New Generation Internet and m-health communities.<sup>5236</sup>

European Union has taken steps to promote public health preparedness and response across all three areas outlined by the World Health Organization.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1 for full compliance.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>5235</sup> Covid-19: Guidance on more regulatory flexibility for medicines, European Commission (Brussels) 10 April 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=21312&page=1&fullDate=Sun%2004%20Oct%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=21312&page=1&fullDate=Sun%2004%20Oct%202020&lang=default)

<sup>5236</sup> Member States presented interoperability guidelines for approved contact tracing apps in the EU, European Commission (Brussels) 13 May 2020. Access date: 18 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter\\_service\\_id=327&newsletter\\_issue\\_id=22243&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2013%20May%202020&lang=default](https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/sante/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?archtype=specific&newsletter_service_id=327&newsletter_issue_id=22243&page=1&fullDate=Wed%2013%20May%202020&lang=default)

## 17. Environment: Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics

“In this regard, we are determined to swiftly take appropriate national actions for the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
Brazil	-1		
Canada		0	
China			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
India	-1		
Indonesia	-1		
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia	-1		
Saudi Arabia	-1		
South Africa		0	
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom		0	
United States	-1		
European Union			+1
Average		-0.05 (48%)	

### Background

Preliminary studies have identified traces of microplastics in the air,<sup>5237</sup> water,<sup>5238</sup> and food<sup>5239</sup> consumed by humans. This has raised concerns regarding the effects of microplastics on human health and brought into question the resiliency of marine life to withstand waters polluted by plastic litter and microplastics.<sup>5240</sup> The G20 first addressed protecting the global marine environment at the

<sup>5237</sup> Microplastics are Raining Down from the Sky, National Geographic (Washington) 15 April 2019. Access date: 13 December, 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/04/microplastics-pollution-falls-from-air-even-mountains/>

<sup>5238</sup> A Global Inventory of Small Floating Plastic Debris, Environmental Research Letters, Bristol) 8 December 2015. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/10/12/124006/pdf>

<sup>5239</sup> Environmental and Health Risks of Microplastic Pollution, Publications Office of the European Union (Brussels) 23 August 2019. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/f235d1e3-7c4d-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-108645429>

<sup>5240</sup> We Know Plastic is Harming Marine Life: What About Us? National Geographic (Washington) June 2018. Access date: 13 December 2019. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-health-pollution-waste-microplastics/>.



2011 Cannes Summit, with a renewed commitment at the 2017 Hamburg Summit to protect the marine environment by reducing and limiting the effects of plastics and microplastics.<sup>5241,5242</sup>

At the 2011 Cannes Summit, the issue of marine environment, and in particular marine environment protection, was included as a distinct commitment area for the first time.<sup>5243</sup> G20 members committed to preventing marine accidents as well as offshore oil and gas exploration and development accidents.<sup>5244</sup> They also called upon the Global Marine Environment Protection working group to report on progress made in the following year pertaining to this issue area and committed to discussing the issue of marine environment further with international organizations and other stakeholders.<sup>5245</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, the issue of waste reduction and littering was discussed and the G20 members committed to “promote public information campaigns for citizens and businesses to reduce waste generation, to re-use and to facilitate their participation in waste collection systems and to avoid littering.”<sup>5246</sup> This summit emphasized the importance of public information campaigns as a means of instilling public environmental awareness and altering the daily habits of citizens. The G20 also established an action plan on marine litter in order to “prevent and reduce marine litter of all kinds, including from single-use plastics and micro-plastics,” so as to meet the Sustainable Development Goals regarding marine pollution, waste management, waste water treatment, and sustainable consumption and production.<sup>5247</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, the Japanese presidency signalled a strong commitment towards environmental protection, energy growth and sustainable production. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that “As the presidency, we will exert strong leadership in discussions aimed towards resolving global issues such as climate change and ocean plastic waste.”<sup>5248</sup> The commitment made by the G20 leaders to prevent and reduce marine litter highlighted the negative impact of marine pollution on aquatic life and signalled an evolving global understanding of collective environmental protection and sustainable production and consumption.

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<sup>5241</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>5242</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5243</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>5244</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>5245</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building Our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>5246</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto). Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5247</sup> G20 Action Plan on Marine Litter (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access date: 19 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-g20-marine-litter.html>

<sup>5248</sup> G20 Japan 2019, Message from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Government of Japan (Tokyo) 2019. Access date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.japan.go.jp/g20japan/message.html>

## Commitment Features

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines microplastics as “plastic particles < 5 mm in length.”<sup>5249</sup> According to WHO, “microplastics encompass a wide range of materials composed of different substances, with different densities, chemical compositions, shapes and sizes.”<sup>5250</sup> Materials and products that can be defined as plastic litter include plastic bags, single-use beverage cups, plastic water bottles, plastic cosmetic packaging and microbeads etc.

G20 members identified the need to prevent and significantly reduce discharges of plastic in the oceans. The word “prevent” means to “keep from happening or existing.”<sup>5251</sup> “Reduce” is understood as “to diminish in size, amount, extent, or number.”<sup>5252</sup> The word “discharges” is defined as “something that discharges or releases.”<sup>5253</sup> Thus, G20 members are required to take action that puts a stop to plastic litter and microplastics from being released into the ocean, and also to lessen the current amount of plastic litter in the oceans. Since the commitment specifies a “significant” reduction, G20 members must take actions that result in statistically significant change.<sup>5254</sup> Actions that would result in minimal or statistically insignificant change do not count towards compliance.

Actions that count towards compliance refer to “national actions” that are understood as government initiatives undertaken at the federal or national level of G20 members, as opposed to initiatives originating and occurring primarily at a regional or international level. Examples of national actions that count toward compliance include passing measures to reduce or restrict single-use plastics or microbeads nationally, engaging the private sector to reduce its output of plastic litter, enhancing methods of waste management, expanding upon national recycling programs, improving water filtration and wastewater treatment systems so as to reduce or remove microplastic fibres in drinking water and enacting a national ban on plastic packaging or single-use plastics. Actions that do not count towards compliance include verbal declarations of support towards the implementation of prevention and/or reduction strategies, ocean clean-ups and environmental awareness campaigns unless said actions are implemented with the support of a measurable outcome that would result in statistically significant change.

To achieve full compliance, G20 members must take national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of both marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans. Actions that address discharge of either marine plastic litter or microplastics, but not both, yield partial compliance. Actions that do not result in statistically significant reduction and prevention of both marine plastic litter and microplastics will be given a score of no compliance. Furthermore, actions that are broadly-based, such as verbal declarations of support, and actions that are isolated measures without a statistically significant outcome, such as ocean cleanups, do not count towards compliance.

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<sup>5249</sup> Information Sheet: Microplastics in Drinking-Water, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access date: 19 November 2019. [https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/)

<sup>5250</sup> Information Sheet: Microplastics in Drinking-Water, World Health Organization (Geneva) 2019. Access date: 19 November 2019. [https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/water-quality/guidelines/microplastics-in-dw-information-sheet/en/)

<sup>5251</sup> Prevent, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

<sup>5252</sup> Reduce, Meriam-Webster 2019. Access Date: 15 December 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/reduce>

<sup>5253</sup> Discharge, Meriam-Webster 2020. Access Date: 19 April 2019. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/discharge>

<sup>5254</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 21 April 2020

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	Member fails to take national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter OR microplastics to the oceans.
0	Members takes national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter OR microplastics to the oceans.
+1	Member takes national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter AND microplastics to the oceans.

*Compliance Director: Alyssa Atef  
Lead Analyst: Gabriella Zhao*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 10 June 2020, the Ministry of Environment in tandem with the National Park Administration implemented a joint initiative to curb single-use plastics in national parks and protected areas.<sup>5255</sup> In particular, the following items will be banned from use in national parks and protected areas: plastic bottles, disposable plastic dishes, plastic utensils, cotton swabs, single-use and compostable plastic bags, cosmetic packaging, plastic packaging, and hygienic products containing plastic microbeads.<sup>5256</sup>

Argentina has partially complied with its commitment by banning plastic products and products containing microspheres from use in national parks and protected areas across the country. While Argentina has taken national action with respect to both marine plastic litter and microplastics, their actions do not prevent and significantly reduce either form of plastic to the oceans, specifically. Moreover, this initiative is not applied across all areas and sectors.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivette Ordonez Nunez*

### Australia: +1

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 9 August 2019, the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison, jointly stated that the country should proceed with embarking on a timeline to ban the export of recyclable materials, and plastics in particular. As well, the COAG determined that the ban should consider reducing plastic waste overall in addition to reducing the amount of plastic waste

<sup>5255</sup> El Ministerio de Ambiente y Parques Nacionales reducirán los plásticos de un solo uso. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, 11 June 2020, Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ambiente-y-parques-nacionales-reduciran-los-plasticos-de-un-solo-uso-1>

<sup>5256</sup> El Ministerio de Ambiente y Parques Nacionales reducirán los plásticos de un solo uso. Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, 11 June 2020, Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-ministerio-de-ambiente-y-parques-nacionales-reduciran-los-plasticos-de-un-solo-uso-1>

being exported to landfill sites. Finally, the COAG agreed that the proposed ban should also account for improving methods of collecting, recycling, reusing, converting, and recovering such waste.<sup>5257</sup>

On 2 September 2019, Australia presented the Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) to work in tandem with the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme's 2018 Marine Litter Action Plan to jointly provide "a cleaner Pacific environment free from single-use plastics."<sup>5258</sup> More specifically, the POLP seeks to "support training, industry and community engagement, donor coordination, as well as technical and practical support in response to National Government priorities," and places an emphasis upon, "strengthening policy & legislative frameworks, including through the implementation of bans, levies or voluntary measures."<sup>5259</sup> The Australian government has committed AUD16 million over six years (2019-2025) toward this effort, as affirmed by Mark Skinner, an official from the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy.<sup>5260</sup>

On 8 November 2019, the Environment Ministers from the COAG expanded upon their previous commitment towards banning the export of recyclable materials to include a timeline of phase-out for each of the categories of waste materials. Per the agreed-upon timeline, waste glass will be banned by July 2020, mixed waste plastics will be banned by July 2021, tires will be banned by December 2021, and all remaining waste products will be banned by 30 June 2022 at the latest.<sup>5261</sup>

On 8 November 2019, the Australian government released its National Waste Policy Action Plan. The plan is multifaceted and includes the following relevant provisions. The Plan seeks to work with the private sector to expand the market for recycled goods, reduce the total amount of plastics waste generated by Australians, and increase the average resource recovery rate to 80 per cent by 2030.<sup>5262</sup> Furthermore, the plan also seeks to phase out all "problematic and unnecessary plastics" by 2025, coordinate for non-governmental organizations to reduce and clean up waste along Australia's coastlines and in their rivers, work with the private sector to reduce ship-sourced marine plastic litter, and phase out all microbeads in cosmetic and personal care products by 2020 with the possibility of expanding the microbeads ban to all products thereafter.<sup>5263</sup>

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<sup>5257</sup> Meeting of the Council of Australian Governments, Cairns 9 August 2019: Communique, (Canberra) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/coag-communique-august-9-2019.pdf>

<sup>5258</sup> Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

<sup>5259</sup> Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

<sup>5260</sup> Pacific Ocean Litter Project (POLP) To Strengthen Pacific Action Against Plastic Pollution, Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (Apia) 2 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.sprep.org/news/pacific-ocean-litter-project-polp-to-strengthen-pacific-action-against-plastic-pollution>

<sup>5261</sup> Waste export ban, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/waste-export-ban>

<sup>5262</sup> National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/5b86c9f8-074e-4d66-ab11-08bbc69da240/files/national-waste-policy-action-plan-2019.pdf>

<sup>5263</sup> National Waste Policy Action Plan 2019, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/resources/5b86c9f8-074e-4d66-ab11-08bbc69da240/files/national-waste-policy-action-plan-2019.pdf>

On 2 March 2020, Minister of the Environment Sussan Ley hosted the Australian National Plastics Summit to showcase and identify solutions to the challenge presented by single-use plastics and marine plastics.<sup>5264</sup> At the summit, the government secured various commitments from the private sector and industry interest groups to invest in sustainable packaging research and use, including McDonalds, Nestle and Dairy Australia.<sup>5265</sup> Further, the government announced at the summit that they will be partnering with the Australian Institute for Packaging to train packaging designers to develop more sustainable packages that are in compliance with Australia's Sustainable Packaging Guidelines and 2025 National Packaging Targets.<sup>5266</sup> The government announced that the government-owned Australia Post will move to 100 per cent recycled plastic postage bags by the end of 2021.<sup>5267</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced a AUD1 billion investment towards improvements in waste and recycling infrastructure.<sup>5268</sup> The package of investments include AUD190 million in the Recycling Modernisation Fund, AUD35 million towards fulfilling Commonwealth commitments dedicated to improve waste management and recycling systems until 2030 and AUD24.6 million in collecting data to monitor recycling outcomes and track progress in waste mitigation measures.<sup>5269</sup> Through this investment, the government intends to divert landfill waste and significantly increase the country's capacity to recycle plastic, paper, tires and glass.<sup>5270</sup>

On 20 August 2020, the Australian government committed AUD10 million in funding towards research initiatives aimed at developing innovative methods of reusing and recycling plastic, paper, glass and tyre.<sup>5271</sup> The funding is part of the Australia's ongoing efforts to transform the nation's waste industry and improve upon the environment.<sup>5272</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the Australian government released its 2020-2021 federal budget, which included an AUD67.4 million investment towards protecting the ocean and maintaining the health of marine

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<sup>5264</sup> National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

<sup>5265</sup> National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

<sup>5266</sup> National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

<sup>5267</sup> National Plastics Summit 2020, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.environment.gov.au/protection/waste-resource-recovery/national-plastics-summit>

<sup>5268</sup> Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

<sup>5269</sup> Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

<sup>5270</sup> Joint Media Release: \$1 Billion Waste and Recycling Plan to Transform Waste Industry, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 26 May 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/1-billion-waste-and-recycling-plan-transform-waste-industry>

<sup>5271</sup> \$10 million in Grants for Smart Recycling Solutions, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 20 August 2020. Access Date: October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/10-million-grants-smart-recycling-solutions>

<sup>5272</sup> \$10 million in Grants for Smart Recycling Solutions, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 20 August 2020. Access Date: October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/10-million-grants-smart-recycling-solutions>

ecosystems.<sup>5273</sup> In particular, the government will invest approximately AUD14.8 million to clean up plastic litter and ghost nets throughout Australia's oceans and shorelines.<sup>5274</sup> Furthermore, the government will also allocate AUD249.6 million towards improving Australia's waste and recycling infrastructure, with said improvements being delivered through new initiatives including the Recycling Modernisation Fund and National Waste Action Plan.<sup>5275</sup> The announcement comes as part of the Australian government's economic recovery plan in the wake of COVID-19, which aims for enhanced waste processing measures and stronger protections for the environment, among other measures.<sup>5276</sup>

Australia has supported efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jared Forman*

### **Brazil: -1**

Brazil has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Brazil has not taken any national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter nor microplastics to the oceans. No actions were found for this report after searching publicly available online sources published by the government, relevant ministries, and international organizations.<sup>5277</sup>

Thus, Brazil receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist*

### **Canada: 0**

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 23 July 2020, Canada moved into the second phase of its Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste. The second phase involves building greater public awareness of plastics, reducing plastic generated by aquatic activities and capturing and clearing up plastics in marine ecosystems.<sup>5278</sup> The second phase is a further development of first phase of the Action Plan initially published in 2018, which was

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<sup>5273</sup> Budget 2020-2021 Infographic, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/budget-infographic-oceans.pdf>

<sup>5274</sup> Budget 2020-21—Protecting and Preserving Australia's Environment, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2020-21-protecting-preserving-australia-environment>

<sup>5275</sup> Budget 2020-21—Protecting and Preserving Australia's Environment, Australian Government: Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/budget-2020-21-protecting-preserving-australia-environment>

<sup>5276</sup> Budget Overview, Government of Australia (Canberra) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://budget.gov.au/2020-21/content/overview.htm>

<sup>5277</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <http://www.brazil.gov.br/about-brazil/news>, <https://unfccc.int/>, <https://www.unenvironment.org/>, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/world/brazil>

<sup>5278</sup> Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste: Phase 2, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (Ottawa). 23 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. [https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%20%20Action%20Plan\\_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf](https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%20%20Action%20Plan_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf)

primarily focused on identifying key issues and developing the capacity to respond to the consequences of plastic production upon marine life.<sup>5279</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Jonathan Wilkinson, announced that Canada will phase-out several single-use plastic items including grocery store checkout bags, plastic straws, black take-out containers, six pack rings, plastic cutlery and stir sticks by the end of 2021.<sup>5280</sup> The ban is part of the government's Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastic Products to Prevent Waste and Pollution. In addition to implementing a ban, the Proposed Integrated Management Approach also suggested a future plan to implement a requirement for products and packaging to utilize recycled content.<sup>5281</sup> The Proposed Integrated Management Approach to Plastic Products to Prevent Waste and Pollution is part of the government's goal broader to achieve zero plastic waste in the country by 2030.<sup>5282</sup> In addition to the announcement, the government published a plastics pollution factsheet<sup>5283</sup> and a comprehensive scientific report on macro and microplastics.<sup>5284</sup> In the report, the government stated that it will create standardizations for sampling, quantifying, and evaluating the effects of plastics and microplastics, conduct additional research on the potential for exposure to and effects of microplastics upon human health and monitor the effects of microplastics upon lesser-studied areas of the environment prior to undertaking further preventative or reduction measures towards microplastic discharge.<sup>5285</sup>

On 7 October 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that Canada will allocate CAD2 million towards funding 14 new projects aimed at reducing plastic waste through the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative.<sup>5286</sup> The projects will be administered in collaboration with various universities, community organizations, municipalities, non-profits and businesses across the country.<sup>5287</sup> Each project was developed with a different overview in mind to further understand the different aspects of localized

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<sup>5279</sup> Canada-wide Action Plan on Zero Plastic Waste: Phase 2, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (Ottawa). 23 July 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. [https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%20%20Action%20Plan\\_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf](https://www.ccme.ca/files/Resources/waste/plastics/CCME%20Phase%20%20Action%20Plan_En%20-%20external-Secured.pdf)

<sup>5280</sup> Liberals' 2021 Single-Use Plastic Ban Includes Grocery Bags, Takeout Containers, CBC (Toronto) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/single-use-plastics-1.5753327>

<sup>5281</sup> Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

<sup>5282</sup> Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

<sup>5283</sup> Plastic Pollution - Information Sheet, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/chemical-substances/fact-sheets/chemicals-glance/plastic-pollution.html>

<sup>5284</sup> Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

<sup>5285</sup> Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/evaluating-existing-substances/science-assessment-plastic-pollution.html>

<sup>5286</sup> Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

<sup>5287</sup> Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

plastic waste production, consumption, innovation methods and reduction.<sup>5288</sup> Overall, the initiative seeks to develop new and innovative ways of preventing, reducing and capturing plastic waste.<sup>5289</sup>

Canada has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a ban on several kinds of single-use plastic items and investing in number of projects to support their Zero Plastic Waste Initiative. Canada, however has failed to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of microplastics to the oceans as the government intends to conduct further research regarding microplastics prior to undertaking further action.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Naomi Butterfield*

### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 16 January 2020, the National Development and Reform Commission in tandem with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment announced that the Chinese government intends to ban the production and sale of cotton swabs and disposable plastic tableware by the end of 2020,<sup>5290</sup> the production of household products containing microbeads by 2020,<sup>5291</sup> the sale of household products containing microbeads by 2022,<sup>5292</sup> the production and distribution of plastic straws and single-use bags by 2020 in major cities,<sup>5293</sup> the production and distribution of plastic straws and single-use bags nationwide by 2022,<sup>5294</sup> the production of non-biodegradable plastic packaging used by ecommerce companies<sup>5295</sup> and all other single-use plastics across the country by 2025.<sup>5296</sup> Under the newly proposed regulations, restaurants must also reduce their usage of single-use plastics by 30 per cent and hotels can no longer offer single-use plastics by 2025.<sup>5297</sup>

On 27 July 2020, the Chinese government issued a circular regarding the bans on plastic litter and microplastic discharge that requested all provincial governments to develop draft plans on how to

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<sup>5288</sup> New Projects Funded by the Zero Plastic Waste Initiative, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/new-projects-funded-by-the-zero-plastic-waste-initiative.html>

<sup>5289</sup> Canada One-Step Closer to Zero Plastic Waste by 2030, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/canada-one-step-closer-to-zero-plastic-waste-by-2030.html>

<sup>5290</sup> Rules for Plastic Products Aim to Curb Urban Pollution, China Daily (Beijing) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202001/20/WS5e24181da310128217272097.html>

<sup>5291</sup> China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

<sup>5292</sup> China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

<sup>5293</sup> Single-use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>

<sup>5294</sup> Single-Use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>

<sup>5295</sup> China Says It Will Ban Plastics That Pollute Its Land and Water, New York Times (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/20/world/asia/china-plastic.html>

<sup>5296</sup> China to Ban All Single-Use Plastics, Forbes (New York) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2020/01/20/china-to-ban-all-single-use-plastics/#53ab5b687293>

<sup>5297</sup> Single-Use Plastic: China to Ban Bags and Other Items BBC (London) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-51171491>



implement the phase-out in their respective regions.<sup>5298</sup> The circular also requested that cities at the prefecture-level and higher provide outlines for the measures necessary to reach the government's initial 2020 phase-out goals by year-end.<sup>5299</sup> The circular directed local governments to establish their own enforcement plans and stated that the government will organize a centralized inspection program by the end of 2020 to assist with enforcement measures.<sup>5300</sup>

China has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans by introducing a comprehensive set of measures aimed at targeting the major producers and distributors of plastic and microplastic waste. The comprehensive set of measures seek to not only ban plastic litter and microplastics, but also outlines the government's intention to further improve upon their recycling capabilities and create innovative, environmentally friendly packaging alternatives.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Meimenat Cheng*

### **France: 0**

France has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 27 December 2019, the French government issued a decree banning single-use plastic plates, cups and cotton buds.<sup>5301</sup> The ban on these single-use plastic products came into effect on 1 January 2020 and is part of the government's broader goal to phase out all single-use plastics by 2040.<sup>5302</sup>

On 30 January 2020, the National Assembly adopted an anti-waste law containing 130 articles pertaining to the prevention and reduction of plastic waste. In particular, the anti-waste law seeks to phase out single-use plastics, reduce the use of single-use plastic bottles by 50 per cent within the next decade, mandates that all restaurants must stop using plastic containers by 2023, and aims for all plastic to be recyclable by 2025.<sup>5303</sup>

On 6 March 2020, France along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.<sup>5304</sup> The 14 countries thus agree to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025 and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic

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<sup>5298</sup> Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

<sup>5299</sup> Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

<sup>5300</sup> Circular Targets Plastic Waste, China Daily (Beijing) 27 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202007/27/WS5f1e2a03a31083481725c213.html>

<sup>5301</sup> France to phase out single-use plastics starting January 1, France 24 (Paris) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191231-france-begins-phasing-out-single-use-plastics>

<sup>5302</sup> France to phase out single-use plastics starting January 1, France 24 (Paris) 31 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.france24.com/en/20191231-france-begins-phasing-out-single-use-plastics>

<sup>5303</sup> Landmark French law will stop unsold goods being thrown away, The Guardian (Paris) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/30/france-passes-landmark-law-to-stop-unsold-goods-being-thrown-away>

<sup>5304</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

products by 2025.<sup>5305</sup> The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.<sup>5306</sup> Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.<sup>5307</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Minister of Economy, Finance, and Recovery, Bruno Le Maire, presented the government's third phase of their COVID-19 economic recovery stimulus.<sup>5308</sup> In particular, the first pillar of the budget is dedicated to transitioning the country to a green economy, and noted a EUR30 billion investment towards measures such as building retrofits, developing methods of sustainable mobility and further improving upon recycling methods.<sup>5309</sup> The budget aims to stimulate the French economy in the wake of COVID-19 economic impacts as well as develop green technologies to keep France innovative and competitive within the global markets.<sup>5310</sup>

France has supported efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter, but has yet to take national action against the prevention and reduction of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Chantal Elias*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Between 2017 and 2021, covering the full compliance period, Germany's Federal Ministry of Education and Research will fund 20 joint research projects and one scientific project of approximately EUR37 million as part of the Plastics in the Environment: Sources, Sinks, Solutions" initiative.<sup>5311</sup> This initiative falls under the umbrella of the Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans) and includes plastics, microplastics and nanoplastics.<sup>5312</sup>

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<sup>5305</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5306</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5307</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5308</sup> Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

<sup>5309</sup> Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

<sup>5310</sup> Recovery Plan, Government of France (Paris) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/locale/piece-jointe/2020/09/french-recovery-plan-press-kit.pdf>

<sup>5311</sup> Background: Plastics in the Environment: Sources, Sinks, Solutions, German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://bmbf-plastik.de/index.php/en/background>.

<sup>5312</sup> Joint Actions, JPI Oceans, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/search-joint-actions-and-projects>.

In 2019 the Ocean Plastics Lab, an initiative co-founded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, continued to operate.<sup>5313</sup> The Lab “is an international traveling exhibition that shows how science tries to understand and tackle the problem of plastic pollution in our oceans.”

On 6 November 2019, the Federal Cabinet passed an amendment to the existing Packaging Act (which aims to recycle more plastic packaging) that bans plastics bags with wall thicknesses between 15 and 50 micrometers from entering the market.<sup>5314</sup>

On 25 November to 8 December 2019, under the Packaging Act, Germany launched the public education campaign “No to the Throwaway Society” to communicate to the public the ban on plastic bags.<sup>5315</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Germany along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.<sup>5316</sup> The 14 countries agreed to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025, and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic products by 2025.<sup>5317</sup> The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.<sup>5318</sup> Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.<sup>5319</sup>

On 22 May 2020, the Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced a call for projects to be funded through the Marine Debris Network program.<sup>5320</sup> The aim of the program is to fund projects aimed at preventing inland waste generation, developing methods of plastic waste reduction and promoting a circular economy.<sup>5321</sup> Furthermore, the program will support the practical implementation of the funded projects by advising on policy consultations, technological

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<sup>5313</sup> About Ocean Plastics Lab, Ocean Plastics Lab, n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020. <https://oceanplasticslab.net/de/uber/>.

<sup>5314</sup> Draft law for a first law amending the Packaging Act, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 27 August 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/gesetz/gesetzentwurf-eines-ersten-gesetzes-zur-aenderung-des-verpackungsgesetzes/>

<sup>5315</sup> Campaign “No to the Throwaway Society,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn) n.d. Access Date: 23 September 2020.

<sup>5316</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5317</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5318</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5319</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5320</sup> Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. [https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22\\_Call\\_for\\_funding\\_under\\_grant\\_programme\\_against\\_marine\\_litter.html](https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html)

<sup>5321</sup> Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. [https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22\\_Call\\_for\\_funding\\_under\\_grant\\_programme\\_against\\_marine\\_litter.html](https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html)

innovations, investments and institutional frameworks, as well as supporting the full implementation of said projects into currently existing frameworks.<sup>5322</sup>

Germany has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic and microplastics litter to the oceans through funding national research projects dedicated to understanding the effects of microplastics upon the oceans, banning single-use plastic bags, promoting national plastic ban awareness campaigns, participating in the European Plastics Pact, and funding national projects to improve waste management and promote a circular economy.

Germany has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic and microplastics litter to the oceans.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Naomi Butterfield*

### **India: -1**

India has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 19 August 2019, the Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar, announced that India would soon launch a campaign to make the country free from all single-use plastics.<sup>5323</sup> Minister Javadekar stated that the government first intends to consult with a variety of stakeholders prior to pursuing this national campaign.<sup>5324</sup>

On 2 February 2020, India and Norway issued a joint statement on climate change and the environment at the 13th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals held in Gandhinagar, India.<sup>5325</sup> The joint statement expresses the nation's joint goal of pursuing climate action over the next decade, continuing their joint cooperation on environmental affairs and especially ocean affairs, continuing their joint integrated ocean management strategy, further minimising marine plastic litter, delivering solutions for ocean health to present at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2020, supporting international endeavours to reduce

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<sup>5322</sup> Call for Funding Under Grant Programme Against Marine Litter, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Bonn). 22 May 2020. Access Date: 18 September 2020. [https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22\\_Call\\_for\\_funding\\_under\\_grant\\_programme\\_against\\_marine\\_litter.html](https://www.research-in-germany.org/news/2020/5/2020-05-22_Call_for_funding_under_grant_programme_against_marine_litter.html)

<sup>5323</sup> Massive Campaign to be Launched to Make India Free of One Time Use Plastics: Shri Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Massive-Campaign-to-be-launched-to-make-India-free-of-one-time-use-plastics-Shri-Prakash-Javadekar-15-08-2020.pdf>

<sup>5324</sup> Massive Campaign to be Launched to Make India Free of One Time Use Plastics: Shri Prakash Javadekar, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Massive-Campaign-to-be-launched-to-make-India-free-of-one-time-use-plastics-Shri-Prakash-Javadekar-15-08-2020.pdf>

<sup>5325</sup> India and Norway to Work Jointly Towards Mitigating Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/India-and-Norway-to-work-jointly-towards-mitigating-marine-plastic-litter-and-microplastics-Issue-Joint-statement.16-02-2020.pdf>

marine plastic litter and microplastic discharge to the oceans and establishing a joint Marine Plastic Initiative.<sup>5326</sup>

Although India has expressed commitment towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter and microplastic discharge to the oceans, it has failed to implement any concrete national actions in this regard.

Thus, India receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Chantal Elias*

### **Indonesia: -1**

Indonesia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 12 December 2019, Director of Waste Management at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Novrizal Tahar announced that the government intends to reduce marine plastic waste by 70 per cent by 2025. Director Tahar indicated that the government would convene in 2020 to discuss and develop a policy to achieve this goal.<sup>5327</sup>

On 5 February 2020, Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati announced the Indonesian government's intention to impose a levied tax on plastic, fossil fuels, and sweet drinks. The proposed excise is a part of a broader plan to reduce the environmental and health effects of said products upon Indonesian citizens. As well, the excise is intended to reduce plastic consumption by up to 50 per cent and ideally alter the plastic production to encourage more environmentally friendly production industries.<sup>5328</sup>

On 19 February 2020, the Indonesian Parliament requested the government to tax a wider range of plastic products than Minister Indrawati had initially proposed as a part of their levied tax plan.<sup>5329</sup>

Although Indonesia has stated its intention to support reduction and prevention efforts of marine plastic litter, Indonesia has yet to implement any national actions with respect to this commitment. Furthermore, Indonesia has neither addressed nor taken action with regards to the prevention and significant reduction of microplastics to the oceans in particular.

Thus, Indonesia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Meimenat Cheng*

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<sup>5326</sup> India and Norway to Work Jointly Towards Mitigating Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 21 September 2020. Access Date: 6 October 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/India-and-Norway-to-work-jointly-towards-mitigating-marine-plastic-litter-and-microplastics-Issue-Joint-statement.16-02-2020.pdf>

<sup>5327</sup> Indonesia to reduce plastic waste 70% by 2025, Anadolu Agency (Ankara) 13 December 2019. Access Date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/indonesia-to-reduce-marine-plastic-waste-70-by-2025/1672349>

<sup>5328</sup> Indonesia revives excise plan on plastics, dirty vehicles, and sweet drinks, Jakarta Post (Jakarta) 19 February 2020. Access date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/19/indonesia-revives-excise-plan-on-plastics-dirty-vehicles-and-sweet-drinks.html>

<sup>5329</sup> Indonesia parliament tells government to tax a wider range of plastic products, Reuters (Toronto) 19 February 2020. Access date: 1 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.pe.ca/business/reuters/indonesia-government-proposes-levy-on-sweetened-drinks-co2-emitting-vehicles-plastic-bags-412659/>

**Italy: 0**

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 July 2019, the first joint committee meeting for the implementation of a memorandum of understanding was held in Rome between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia and the Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Protection of the Territory and Sea of Italy.<sup>5330</sup> The memorandum of understanding established that Italy and Russia will jointly pursue future endeavors to monitor and prevent water pollution, preserve ecological diversity and improve upon waste water management techniques, among other measures.<sup>5331</sup> The joint committee approved to pursue these measures from 2019 to 2021.<sup>5332</sup>

On 23 September 2019, Italy introduced a national tax on manufactured plastic products at a rate of EUR1 per kilogram of plastic used in product production.<sup>5333</sup> The proportional tax was included within Italy's proposed 2020 Budget and is projected to raise approximately EUR1 billion.<sup>5334</sup> Qualifying products for the tax include plastic caps, plastic bottles, single-use plastic bags, food packaging containing polyethylene and tetra pack containers, among other items.<sup>5335</sup> Exemptions include compostable plastic products and medical paraphernalia.<sup>5336</sup> The tax is set to come into enforcement by 1 July 2020.<sup>5337</sup>

On 29 November 2019, an amendment was made to the Budget Law 2020 to reduce the rate of taxation on plastics used in product production from EUR1 per kilogram to EUR0.5 per kilogram.<sup>5338</sup> As well, the amendment expanded upon exemptions to include all medical devices, equipment and paraphernalia.<sup>5339</sup>

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<sup>5330</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/)

<sup>5331</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/)

<sup>5332</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sredy/)

<sup>5333</sup> Italy's Draft Budgetary Plan 2020, European Commission (Brussels) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2020\\_dbp\\_it\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/economy-finance/2020_dbp_it_en.pdf)

<sup>5334</sup> Italy to Tax Plastic and Sugar, Angering Producers, Reuters (London) 28 October 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-budget-plastic-idUSKBN1X71XF>

<sup>5335</sup> Italy Introduces Proportional Tax on Plastic Items, Ernst & Young Global (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. [https://www.ey.com/en\\_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items](https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items)

<sup>5336</sup> Italy Softens Budget Plastic Tax, Cuts Tax on 'Green' Tampons, Reuters (London) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-italy-tax-plastic-tampons-idUSKBN1Y31UP>

<sup>5337</sup> Italy Introduces Proportional Tax on Plastic Items, Ernst & Young Global (London) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020. [https://www.ey.com/en\\_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items](https://www.ey.com/en_gl/tax-alerts/ey-italy-introduces-proportional-tax-on-plastic-items)

<sup>5338</sup> Italy Waters Down Plastic Tax after Complaints from Business, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.thelocal.it/20191205/italy-waters-down-plastic-tax-after-complaints-from-business>

<sup>5339</sup> Italy Waters Down Plastic Tax after Complaints from Business, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 3 October 2020. <https://www.thelocal.it/20191205/italy-waters-down-plastic-tax-after-complaints-from-business>

On 6 March 2020, Italy along with 13 other European countries signed a collective European pact to reduce plastic waste and limit its impacts upon the environment.<sup>5340</sup> The 14 countries agreed to collectively pursue the following goals: increase the reusability and recyclability of single-use plastic products, reduce the use of virgin plastic by 20 per cent by 2025, grow recycling capabilities by 25 per cent by 2025, and require the utilization of at least 30 per cent recycled plastic material in all plastic products by 2025.<sup>5341</sup> The pact was signed in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and businesses.<sup>5342</sup> Progress will be monitored by a dedicated secretariat.<sup>5343</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the Italian government announced that it would postpone the implementation of the plastic tax until 2021 due to the economic effects of COVID-19 upon local plastic producers and industries who rely on plastics.<sup>5344</sup>

Although Italy has displayed efforts towards the prevention and significant reduction of plastic litter discharge through their proposed plastic tax, it has delayed the tax and additionally, Italy has yet to take concrete national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of marine plastic litter to the oceans.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 29 June 2019, the Government of Japan launched the MARINE initiative. This framework lays out Japan's commitment to combat marine plastic litter on a global scale by supporting developing countries in their efforts towards waste management, the recovery of marine litter, and technological innovation. The MARINE initiative was launched in response to the G20's Osaka Blue Ocean Vision.<sup>5345</sup>

On 13 September 2019, Minister of the Environment Shinjiro Koizumi iterated Japan's commitment to leading a global movement towards plastic reduction. Koizumi outlined his intention to collaborate with

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<sup>5340</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5341</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5342</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5343</sup> A European Pact to Control Use of Plastic and Promote a Circular Economy, Government of France (Paris) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 2 October 2020. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/en/a-european-pact-to-control-use-of-plastic-and-promote-a-circular-economy>

<sup>5344</sup> Italy Delays Tax on Plastic due to Coronavirus Crisis, The Local Italy (Stockholm) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 3 October 2020.

<sup>5345</sup> Japan's "MARINE Initiative" toward Realization of the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e\\_000317.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/ic/ge/page25e_000317.html)

other countries to tackle the issue of marine plastics and acknowledged the importance of reducing “plastic straws, bottles, and bags,” while also addressing marine plastic reduction at a macro level.<sup>5346</sup>

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.<sup>5347</sup> The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.<sup>5348</sup>

On 9 October 2019, the Ministry of Environment, in tandem with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability at the United Nations University held the “G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019” in Tokyo, Japan in follow up to the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.<sup>5349</sup> During the meeting, the participants summarized the strategic policies targeting marine plastic litter that were implemented by each of the G20 members both prior to and following the Osaka Summit.<sup>5350</sup> The purpose of the meeting was to share best practices among the members, provide updates on actions taken by the members since the Osaka Summit, and to further highlight the importance of this commitment area both within the G20 and to countries outside of the G20.<sup>5351</sup>

On 1 November 2019, a joint panel of Japan’s industry and environment ministries approved a draft plan to put fees on plastic bag use. The legislation will require all retailers across the country to charge customers for plastic shopping bags. This legislation will come into effect by July 2020.<sup>5352</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the legislation requiring a fee for consumers who utilize plastic bags came into effect.<sup>5353</sup> The cost of the fee will be set by retailers and is intended to curb the degree to which consumers rely on single-use plastic bags.<sup>5354</sup>

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<sup>5346</sup> New Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi vows Japan will take lead role on plastic waste, Japan Times (Tokyo) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/09/13/national/science-health/koizumi-japan-lead-plastic-waste/#.XkHqnxNKiqC>

<sup>5347</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5348</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5349</sup> Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. [https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter\\_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf](https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf)

<sup>5350</sup> Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. [https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter\\_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf](https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf)

<sup>5351</sup> Results of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue 2019 and follow up of the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, Ministry of the Environment — Government of Japan (Tokyo) 13 November 2019. Access date: 2 April 2020. [https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter\\_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf](https://g20mpl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/G20-Report-on-Actions-against-Marine-Plastic-Litter_First-Information-Sharing-based-on-the-G20-Implementation-Framework.pdf)

<sup>5352</sup> Japan to make Plastic Bag Fees Mandatory from July 2020, Nippon (Tokyo) 1 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2019110101013/japan-to-make-plastic-bag-fees-mandatory-from-july-2020.html>



Japan has taken national action towards preventing and significantly reducing the discharge of marine plastic litter such as seen in the MARINE initiative. However, it has not taken national action targeted at the prevention and reduction of microplastic discharge to the oceans.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Chantal Elias*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 10 December 2019, Environment Minister Cho Myung-rae announced the implementation of the 5<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Plan for the National Environment (2020-2040).<sup>5355</sup> The plan outlines strategies for the implementation of environmentally-conscious policies throughout a variety of different industries and sectors, provides policy direction for the implementation of environment-related policies at the local government level and overall outlines a long-term vision for national environment management from 2020 to 2040. Under Strategy 2, Korea's Fifth Comprehensive Plan seeks to implement Integrated Water Resource Management to enhance water quality by reducing microplastics discharge.<sup>5356</sup> In addition, Strategy 6 of the plan also iterates the government's intention to phase-out the use of plastics nation-wide. This is to be accomplished by developing environmentally friendly plastic alternatives and reducing the use of plastics.<sup>5357</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced that clear plastic bottles are from thenceforth to be collected and recycled separately from all other waste material for the purposes of turning the plastic bottles into a high quality textile material.<sup>5358</sup> Minister stated that the ministry would launch a "Pilot Project for the Separate Disposal of Transparent Used Plastic Bottles"

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<sup>5353</sup> Japan's New Plastic Bag Charge: What it Means for Consumers and the Environment, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/01/national/japan-plastic-bag-charge-consumers-environment/>

<sup>5354</sup> Japan's New Plastic Bag Charge: What it Means for Consumers and the Environment, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 1 July 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/07/01/national/japan-plastic-bag-charge-consumers-environment/>

<sup>5355</sup> Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5356</sup> Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5357</sup> Vision and Strategy for Korea's Green Transition 2040, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 27 January 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1153240&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5358</sup> Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

throughout the municipalities of Seoul, Busan, Cheonan, Gimhae, Jeju and Seogwipo.<sup>5359</sup> The pilot project involves the installation of separate collection boxes for the collection of used clear plastic bottles in apartment houses and main collection facilities, and transparent plastic bags for the collection of used clear plastic bottles from single-family houses.<sup>5360</sup> The ministry estimates that by increasing the country's clear plastic bottle collection through this program, Korea will overall reduce the amount of clear plastic bottles it imports from neighboring countries.<sup>5361</sup> Should the pilot prove successful, the ministry indicated that it would likely implement the program nation-wide by 2021.<sup>5362</sup>

On 24 March 2020, Minister Cho clarified that an amendment to the “Enforcement Decree of the Act on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal” reached a resolution in State Council and will come into act as of 31 March 2020.<sup>5363</sup> The act bans the import of waste products as identified by the minister and supports the use of local wastes as an alternative.<sup>5364</sup> The new resolution resulted in the guarantee to reassess the rate of import for recycling waste materials such as cinder, waste batteries, waste tires and waste plastic as these materials were found to be imported excessively.<sup>5365</sup> In particular, the Ministry of Environment will assess these materials in the context of the rate of local reuse, possibility to replace with the local

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<sup>5359</sup> Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

<sup>5360</sup> Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

<sup>5361</sup> Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

<sup>5362</sup> Separate disposal of used plastic bottles to improve quality and reduce import, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=0&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1349020&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=Press%20Center>

<sup>5363</sup> Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5364</sup> Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5365</sup> Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020. <https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

equivalent and the impact of replacement upon industries and the environment prior to enacting a ban on the identified materials.<sup>5366</sup>

On 23 June 2020, the Ministry of Environment stated that the aforementioned “Pilot Project for the Separate Disposal of Transparent Used Plastic Bottles” successfully repurposed clear plastic bottles into high quality textiles and products and would thus be expanded nation-wide.<sup>5367</sup> Prior to the launch of the program, recycled long-fiber products and clothing were made from approximately 22,000 tonnes of imported plastic waste per year and 28,000 tonnes of domestic plastic waste per year was repurposed into high quality products.<sup>5368</sup> In order to improve the efficacy and efficiency of the program, the ministry seeks to improve the collection, sorting, recycling, and product production aspects of the program. In particular, the program will collect both used and new plastic bottles, when it had previously only collected new bottles, from apartments as of December 2020 and single-family homes as of January 2021.<sup>5369</sup> By the second half of 2021, the program will also improve upon the method of collecting and sorting plastic waste by expanding the labelling system used to distinguish between each material.<sup>5370</sup> Finally, the program will seek to collect waste from all regions, with the exception of Jeju Island and Cheonan city.<sup>5371</sup>

Korea has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans through enhancing their recycling capabilities and reducing the volume of imported plastic waste. As well, Korea has complied with their commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of microplastics to the oceans by implementing their Fifth Comprehensive Plan, which outlines the Integrated Water Resource Management strategy aimed at reducing microplastic discharge into the ocean.

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<sup>5366</sup> Ban Import of Unnecessary Waste and Promote Reuse of Local Waste Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1374320&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5367</sup> Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5368</sup> Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5369</sup> Plastic Waste Recycled as High Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5370</sup> Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

<sup>5371</sup> Plastic Waste Recycled as High-Quality Products, Beginning of a Circular Economy, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 23 June 2020. Access Date: 5 October 2020.

<https://eng.me.go.kr/eng/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=10&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=461&orgCd=&boardId=1388810&boardMasterId=522&boardCategoryId=&decorator=&firstItemIndex=>

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Meimenat Cheng*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to take national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 5 December 2019, the Senate of Mexico in conjunction with various plastic industry associations and civil society groups, signed the National Agreement for the New Plastics Economy in Mexico.<sup>5372</sup> This agreement aims to reduce, recycle and make compostable plastics in Mexico by 2030.<sup>5373</sup> Senator Ricardo Monreal Ávila stated that in Mexico, “waste destroys the ecosystems as litter goes into rivers, oceans, jungles and forests.”<sup>5374</sup> Overall, this agreement seeks to reduce single-use plastics and estimates that all plastic products should contain 20 per cent recycled material by 2025.<sup>5375</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the approval for the Sectorial Program for the Environment and Natural Resources 2020-2024 was published in the Federal Gazette.<sup>5376</sup> The program contains five key objectives: promote the conservation, protection, and sustainable use of ecosystems, take stronger climate action, promote water management strategies, rid the water, air, and soil from contamination and encourage citizen participation in environmental policy-making decisions.<sup>5377</sup>

On 20 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources published a guideline created by the Secretariat of the Environment of the Fourth Transformation.<sup>5378</sup> The guideline envisions seven transitions the government will pursue to restore and conserve the environment.<sup>5379</sup> In particular, the guideline outlined the administration’s goal to transition to improve upon waste management, improve water management and to achieve water that is free from contamination.<sup>5380</sup>

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<sup>5372</sup> México logra Acuerdo Nacional para la nueva economía de los plásticos, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 10 December 2019. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.portalam biental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

<sup>5373</sup> Industria y Senado firman Acuerdo Nacional por una Nueva Economía del Plástico, Senado de la República (Mexico City) 5 December 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <http://comunicacion.senado.gob.mx/index.php/informacion/boletines/47095-industria-y-senado-firman-acuerdo-nacional-por-una-nueva-economia-del-plastico.html>

<sup>5374</sup> Industria y Senado firman Acuerdo Nacional por una Nueva Economía del Plástico, Senado de la República (Mexico City) 5 December 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <http://comunicacion.senado.gob.mx/index.php/informacion/boletines/47095-industria-y-senado-firman-acuerdo-nacional-por-una-nueva-economia-del-plastico.html>

<sup>5375</sup> México logra Acuerdo Nacional para la nueva economía de los plásticos, Portal Ambiental (Mexico City) 10 December 2019. Access date: 19 March 2020. <https://www.portalam biental.com.mx/empresas/20191210/mexico-logra-acuerdo-nacional-para-la-nueva-economia-de-los-plasticos>

<sup>5376</sup> Publica Semarnat su Programa Sectorial 2020-2024, Semarnat (Mexico City) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/publica-semarnat-su-programa-sectorial-2020-2024?idiom=es>

<sup>5377</sup> Publica Semarnat su Programa Sectorial 2020-2024, Semarnat (Mexico City) 7 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/publica-semarnat-su-programa-sectorial-2020-2024?idiom=es>

<sup>5378</sup> Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>5379</sup> Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

<sup>5380</sup> Siete Transiciones que Cambiarán el Rumbo de México, Semarnat (Mexico City) 20 July 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/prensa/siete-transiciones-que-cambiaran-el-rumbo-de-mexico?idiom=es>

Mexico has taken national action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans through the National Agreement for the New Plastics Economy in Mexico. The Mexican government has also expressed intentions to implement future policies aimed at improving waste management and reducing pollution in its waters. However, it has failed to take national action to prevent and reduce discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivette Ordonez Nunez*

### **Russia: -1**

Russia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 July 2019, the first joint committee meeting for the implementation of a memorandum of understanding was held in Rome between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Russia and the Ministry of the Environment and Ecological Protection of the Territory and Sea of Italy.<sup>5381</sup> The memorandum of understanding established that Italy and Russia will jointly pursue future endeavors to monitor and prevent water pollution, preserve ecological diversity, and improve upon waste water management techniques, among other measures.<sup>5382</sup> The joint committee approved to pursue these measures from 2019-2021.<sup>5383</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the Federal Consumer Protection Service indicated that it would release a draft bill to phase out single-use plastics bags in collaboration with other national governmental agencies.<sup>5384</sup> The Federal Consumer Protection Service did not indicate both when the bill might be presented and if there was a particular timeline or projected date for full national implementation of the proposed phase-out.<sup>5385</sup>

While Russia has collaborated with Italy to address water pollution and has released a draft bill to phase out single-use plastic bags, the first action does not address marine plastic litter or microplastics, specifically, and neither action meet the criteria of statistically significant reduction.

Thus, Russia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Katherine Yarun*

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<sup>5381</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sred/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/)

<sup>5382</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sred/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/)

<sup>5383</sup> Россия и Италия утвердили среднесрочный план сотрудничества в сфере охраны окружающей среды и устойчивого развития Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Moscow) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_italiya\\_utverdili\\_srednesrochnyy\\_plan\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_sfere\\_okhrany\\_okruzhayushchey\\_sred/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_italiya_utverdili_srednesrochnyy_plan_sotrudnichestva_v_sfere_okhrany_okruzhayushchey_sred/)

<sup>5384</sup> Article: Russia moves to phase out plastic bags in new draft law, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/18/russia-moves-phase-out-plastic-bags-new-draft-law-a67791>

<sup>5385</sup> Article: Russia moves to phase out plastic bags in new draft law, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 18 October 2019. Access date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/18/russia-moves-phase-out-plastic-bags-new-draft-law-a67791>

**Saudi Arabia: -1**

Saudi Arabia has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 14 July 2019 Saudi Arabia's National Center for Waste Management signed a memorandum of understanding with the Riyadh municipality and the Saudi Investment Recycling Company to strengthen cooperation and coordination for a waste management strategy in Riyadh.<sup>5386</sup> The strategy intends to include recycling of municipal waste, including plastics.

On 16 June 2020, Saudi Arabia announced that the second phase of their oxo-biodegradable plastics regulation, which was set to come into force on 1 April 2020, will be delayed until further notice.<sup>5387</sup> The initial phase of the three-phased approach (implemented on 14 April 2017) required that single-use plastic bags, garbage bags, table covers, woven bags, and disposable cutlery be produced from an oxo-biodegradable plastic material.<sup>5388</sup> The first phase of the regulation will remain in effect.<sup>5389</sup>

On 23 July 2020 the Council of Ministers established the Environment Fund and four specialized environment centres.<sup>5390</sup> The establishment of these centres included an assessment regarding the including of waste management. It is not clear if this covers plastics or microplastics.

Saudi Arabia has taken some action on recycling plastics at the municipal level and on waste management broadly at the national level. There is not enough evidence to show Saudi Arabia took swift action to prevent and significantly reduce the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.<sup>5391</sup>

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of -1.

*Analyst: Amira Higazy*

**South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

From 21 to 22 November 2019, South Africa's Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy hosted a Plastic Colloquium attended by several key stakeholders within South Africa's government, industry and civil society.<sup>5392</sup> The Plastic Colloquium involved discussions on recent research on plastic waste, the implementation and effectiveness of awareness campaigns, and

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<sup>5386</sup> The National center for Waste Management, the Riyadh Municipality and the Recycling Company Sign a Memorandum of Understanding to Start Waste Recycling Activities in Riyadh, Argaam, 14 July 2019. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.argaam.com/ar/article/articledetail/id/1301195>.

<sup>5387</sup> Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers\\_details.htm?barrier\\_id=14529](https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529)

<sup>5388</sup> Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers\\_details.htm?barrier\\_id=14529](https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529)

<sup>5389</sup> Introduction of (Oxo-Biodegradable) Certification for Plastic Products, European Commission (Brussels) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 8 October 2020. [https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers\\_details.htm?barrier\\_id=14529](https://madb.europa.eu/madb/barriers_details.htm?barrier_id=14529)

<sup>5390</sup> In the Era of "Salman"...5 Historic Decisions Pledging to the Environment Safety, Saudi Ministry of Environment Water and Agriculture, 23 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/News/Pages/55464.aspx>.

<sup>5391</sup> This non-compliance was determined after a search of the following websites: <https://saudigazette.com.sa/>, <https://www.alriyadh.gov.sa/en/>, <https://www.mewa.gov.sa/en/MediaCenter/News/Pages/home.aspx>, <https://www.aljazeera.com/>, <https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/cwlw3xz0zl4t/saudi-arabia>

<sup>5392</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

international best practices and actions in tackling plastic waste.<sup>5393</sup> This colloquium was divided into six main topics which later formed the basis of the South Africa Plastic Pact, namely, product standards and certification, product design, development and innovation, integration of the informal waste economy, biodegradable and compostable plastics, infrastructure and consumer education.<sup>5394</sup>

On December 2019, South Africa announced the launch of National Marine Month 2020, a national environmental awareness campaign set to take place throughout the month of October 2020.<sup>5395</sup> The educational campaign is intended to raise awareness within the country of the benefits provided by South Africa's marine and coastal environments provide recommendations to households on ways to preserve the health of South Africa's marine and coastal lines, including the reduction of plastic consumption.<sup>5396</sup>

On 30 January 2020, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy launched the South Africa Plastic Pact.<sup>5397</sup> This pact follows the National Environmental Management Waste Act: Consultation on National Waste Management Strategy conducted in December 2019, which identified single-use plastics used in consumer packaging to be the primary cause of plastic pollution throughout the coastal and marine environments.<sup>5398</sup> The South Africa Plastic Pact — a national initiative within the Global Plastics Pact Network — was designed to address both global and domestic plastic waste and pollution challenges using the objectives of the Plastic Colloquium.<sup>5399</sup> The Deputy Director-General of Oceans and Coast added that regular meetings and workshops would be held to check progress and to account for work done.<sup>5400</sup>

On 9 September 2020, the South African Cabinet approved the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 to replace the previous National Waste Management Strategy from 2011.<sup>5401</sup> The updated strategy targets three main objectives — waste minimization, sustainable services and waste awareness and compliance.<sup>5402</sup> Notable changes adopted in the 2020 strategy include implementing strategies to increase residential waste sorting and separation programs, investing in businesses who transport waste to recycling facilities and promoting innovative product and packaging designs that promote reuse,

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<sup>5393</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

<sup>5394</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy hosts Plastic Colloquium 21 to 22 Nov, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 17 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-environment-forestry-and-fisheries-ms-barbara-creecy-host-plastic-colloquium-19>

<sup>5395</sup> Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

<sup>5396</sup> Marine Month 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) December 2019. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/MarineMonth2020>

<sup>5397</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

<sup>5398</sup> National Environmental Management: Waste Act: Consultation: National Waste Management Strategy, South African Government (Cape Town) 3 December 2019. Access Date: 18 March 2020. <https://www.gov.za/documents/nationalenvironmental-management-waste-act-consultation-national-waste-management>

<sup>5399</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

<sup>5400</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: Launch of South Africa Plastic Pact, South African Government (Cape Town) 30 January 2020. Access Date: 13 February 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/launch-south-africa-plastic-pact-30-jan-2020-0000>

<sup>5401</sup> Statement on the Virtual Cabinet Meeting of 9 September 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-9-september-2020-10-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>5402</sup> Statement on the Virtual Cabinet Meeting of 9 September 2020, South African Government (Cape Town) 9 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/statement-virtual-cabinet-meeting-9-september-2020-10-sep-2020-0000>

reduce overall waste and support markets for properly sorting recyclables, among other measures.<sup>5403</sup> The implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy 2020 is part of the government's broader goal of circular economic green recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5404</sup>

On 19 September 2020, Minister Creecy announced the launch of the Inkwazi Isu Project which aims to collaborate with businesses, plastics manufacturers, government stakeholders, citizens and non-governmental organizations to promote recycling measures and localized solutions to implementing a circular plastics economy.<sup>5405</sup> The project will work to support the Source to Sea program, which is aimed at reducing marine plastic litter by improving waste management strategies and supporting physical river cleanups throughout South Africa.<sup>5406</sup>

South Africa has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter as seen in the implementation of the South Africa Plastic Pact, the National Waste Management Strategy 2020, and the Inkwazi Isu Project. However, it has not taken action to prevent and reduce microplastic discharge to the oceans.

Thus, South Africa has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Amira Higazy*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with its commitment to take national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of discharges of plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 2 January 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization implemented a recovery share tax on the packaging used by oil, pharmaceutical, electronic goods and beverage manufacturers and importers.<sup>5407</sup> The tax is to be paid directly to the Treasury and Ministry of Finance of Turkey. The companies can offset this tax by requiring their customers to pay a recyclable packaging deposit, thus encouraging recycling measures and reducing the amount of plastic waste.<sup>5408</sup>

Turkey has taken national actions towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a tax on packaging from various industries. However, Turkey has not taken national action to prevent and reduce the discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Katherine Yarun*

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<sup>5403</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: SA Recycling Week, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-sa-recycling-week-14-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>5404</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: SA Recycling Week, South African Government (Cape Town) 14 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-sa-recycling-week-14-sep-2020-0000>

<sup>5405</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: International Coastal Clean-Up and launch of Inkwazi Isu Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2020. Access Date 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-international-coastal-clean-and-launch-inkwazi-isu-project-19-sep>

<sup>5406</sup> Minister Barbara Creecy: International Coastal Clean-Up and launch of Inkwazi Isu Project, South African Government (Cape Town) 19 September 2020. Access Date: 7 October 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-barbara-creecy-international-coastal-clean-and-launch-inkwazi-isu-project-19-sep>

<sup>5407</sup> Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetydailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>

<sup>5408</sup> Recovery share period starts for packaged products, Hurriyet Daily News (Istanbul) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.hurriyetydailynews.com/recovery-share-period-starts-for-packaged-products-150524>



### **United Kingdom: 0**

The United Kingdom has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 31 August 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that it extended taxation upon single-use carrier plastic bags into April 2021.<sup>5409</sup> The taxation now applies to all retailers across the nation and has increased in cost for each bag from GBP5 to GBP10. With this legislation, the UK aims to reduce the single-use plastic carrier bag waste generated by small businesses and incentivize consumers to rely on long-life bags made from sustainable materials.<sup>5410</sup> The announcement is part of the UK's ongoing efforts to curb all avoidable plastic waste reduce and prevent marine plastic litter by the end of 2042 as outlined in their 25 Year Environment plan.<sup>5411</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced that legislation banning plastic straws, stirrers and cotton buds came into effect.<sup>5412</sup> It aims to completely eliminate the usage of these single-use plastics. The ban was initially set to be implemented by April 2020, but was delayed in its implementation due to the collective closure of businesses nation-wide as a result of COVID-19.<sup>5413</sup> The announcement is part of the UK's ongoing efforts to curb all avoidable plastic waste and reduce and prevent marine plastic litter by the end of 2042 as outlined in their 25 Year Environment plan.<sup>5414</sup>

The UK has partially complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter to the oceans by implementing a tax to reduce single-use plastic bags and thereby incentivizing consumers to adopt long-life bags instead. As well, the UK has further demonstrated their compliance by outright banning several single-use plastics throughout the nation. The UK, however, has failed to implement targeted strategies to prevent or reduce the discharge of microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Ivette Ordóñez Nunez*

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<sup>5409</sup> War on Plastic Waste Stepped up with Extension of Plastic Bag Charge, Gov.UK (London) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

<sup>5410</sup> War on Plastic Waste Stepped up with Extension of Plastic Bag Charge, Gov.UK (London) 31 August 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/war-on-plastic-waste-stepped-up-with-extension-of-plastic-bag-charge>

<sup>5411</sup> A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, HM Government (London) 11 January 2018. Access Date: 4 October 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

<sup>5412</sup> Start of Ban on Plastic Straws, Stirrers and Cotton Buds, Gov.UK (London) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/start-of-ban-on-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds>

<sup>5413</sup> Ban on Plastic Straws, Stirrers and Cotton Buds Delayed Due to Coronavirus Outbreak, Gov.UK (London) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 4 October 2020. <https://deframedia.blog.gov.uk/2020/04/16/ban-on-plastic-straws-stirrers-and-cotton-buds-delayed-due-to-coronavirus-outbreak/>

<sup>5414</sup> A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment, Gov.UK (London) 11 January 2018. Access Date: 4 October 2020. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/693158/25-year-environment-plan.pdf)

### **United States: -1**

The United States has not complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.<sup>5415</sup> The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the G20 Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.<sup>5416</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army repealed an amendment of the Code of Regulation.<sup>5417</sup> The amendment, entitled 2015 Clean Water Rule: Definition of “Waters of the United States,” was repealed by the EPA in part due to its failure to “recognize, preserve, and protect the primary responsibilities and right of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution” as outlined in 33 U.S.C. 1251 (b).<sup>5418</sup> The repeal thus restores the standards of American waterways back to its 1986 standards.

The United States has not complied national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

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

*Analyst: Jared Forman*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to take national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

On 4 October 2019, the Council of the EU adopted its final conclusions in response to the Strategic Agenda initially adopted earlier in the year.<sup>5419</sup> The Strategic Agenda is a framework of action intended to build a “climate neutral, green, fair and social Europe.”<sup>5420</sup> In response to the initial framework, the Council reiterated its commitment to combating marine litter in the form of plastics and microplastics originating from both land and water sources. Furthermore, the Council called upon the EU to fully

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<sup>5415</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5416</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5417</sup> Navigable Waters Protection Rule, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/definition-waters-united-states-recodification-pre-existing-rules>

<sup>5418</sup> Navigable Waters Protection Rule, Environmental Protection Agency (Washington D.C.) 26 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/definition-waters-united-states-recodification-pre-existing-rules>

<sup>5419</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5420</sup> A New Strategic Agenda, European Council (Brussels) 20 June 2019. Date Accessed: 6 February 2020.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2019/06/20/a-new-strategic-agenda-2019-2024/>

adopt the Plastics Strategy so as to support the EU's full transition into a circular economy, reduce plastic packaging, increase the use of recycled plastics and develop an environmental policy framework which supports the use of biodegradable plastics.<sup>5421</sup> Finally, the Council urged the European Commission to expedite the establishment of restrictions on the intentional addition of microplastics, and to consider avenues of reducing unintentionally released microplastics in a concerted effort to reduce the discharge of plastic and microplastic litter into the ocean.<sup>5422</sup>

On 8 October 2019, the European Union co-organized a workshop on “Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter” together with the Japanese Ministry of Environment and the US Environmental Protection Agency.<sup>5423</sup> The workshop aims to contribute to the G20 Osaka Blue Ocean Vision agreed at the Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.<sup>5424</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the European Commission announced its commitment towards implementing the European Green Deal.<sup>5425</sup> The European Green Deal is a framework of action dedicated towards achieving net neutrality within the EU by 2050, preserving the natural resources of the EU, decoupling economic growth from resource dependency, fully implementing both the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development agenda and the sustainable development goals and overall protecting citizens' health from environmental-related factors.<sup>5426</sup> In particular, the Commission emphasized their commitment towards following up on its 2018 Plastics Strategy. The Commission outlined its distinct focus on addressing the unintentional releases of plastics and microplastics, creating biodegradable plastics, and implementing measures regarding single-use plastics. As well, the Commission iterated their intention to propose additional measures pertaining to runoff pollution from plastics and microplastics in ground and surface water.<sup>5427</sup>

On 5 March 2020, the European Council reaffirmed its commitment to implement the European Green Deal. The Council urged all member states to submit their national strategies to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by 2020 in accordance with the Paris Agreement.<sup>5428</sup>

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<sup>5421</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5422</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5423</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5424</sup> G20 Workshop on Scientific Knowledge and Innovative Solutions for Marine Plastic Litter: Supporting the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, European Commission (Brussels) 8 October 2020. Date Accessed: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international\\_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20\(Tokyo%20%20October%202019\)%20-%20Report.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/international_issues/pdf/File%20%20-%20G20%20Marine%20Plastic%20Litter%20Workshop%20(Tokyo%20%20October%202019)%20-%20Report.pdf)

<sup>5425</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5426</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5427</sup> The European Green Deal, European Commission (Brussels) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>5428</sup> Climate change: Council adopts EU long-term strategy for submission to the UNFCCC, European Council (Brussels) 5 March 2020. Date Accessed: 26 March 2020. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2020/03/05/climate-change-council-adopts-eu-long-term-strategy-for-submission-to-the-unfccc/>

On 11 March 2020, the European Commission adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP).<sup>5429</sup> The plan includes mandatory requirements for recycled content and waste reduction measures for key products such as packaging, construction materials and vehicles in order to ensure a sustainable use of plastics.<sup>5430</sup> The plan also restricts the use of intentionally added microplastics in products such as cosmetics, detergents and paints, among other things.<sup>5431</sup> It further restricts the release of microplastics by developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures.<sup>5432</sup> Finally, the CEAP outlines the development of a policy framework for the use of bio-based plastics and biodegradable plastics.<sup>5433</sup>

Through the implementation of the Green Deal and the accompanying Circular Economy Action Plan, the EU has taken national action towards the prevention and significant reduction of the discharge of marine plastic litter and microplastics to the oceans.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jessi Gilchrist*

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<sup>5429</sup> Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

<sup>5430</sup> Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

<sup>5431</sup> Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

<sup>5432</sup> Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

<sup>5433</sup> Circular Economy Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 11 March 2020. Access Date: 28 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new\\_circular\\_economy\\_action\\_plan.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/pdf/new_circular_economy_action_plan.pdf)

## 18. Climate Change: Financing for Sustainable Development

“To this end, we strive to foster inclusive finance for sustainable development, including public and private financing mobilization and alignment between them.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina		0	
Australia			+1
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			+1
South Africa			+1
Turkey		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.85 (93%)	

### Background

The G20 first addressed climate change at its inaugural summit in Washington in 2008.<sup>5434</sup> At the 2009 London Summit, the G20 pledged to do “whatever is necessary to: ... build an inclusive, green, and sustainable recovery,” as well as committed to “address the threat of irreversible climate change, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and to reach agreement at the United Nations Climate Change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.” G20 members also expressed their support for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).<sup>5435</sup> This support was expressed at every G20 summit, including at Hamburg in 2017 where leaders reiterated “the importance of fulfilling the UNFCCC commitment by developed countries in providing means of implementation including financial resources to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions in line with Paris outcomes and note

<sup>5434</sup> Declaration of the Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy, 2008 Washington Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 15 November 2008. Access Date: 30 March 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2008/2008declaration1115.html>

<sup>5435</sup> Global Plan for Recovery and Reform, 2009 London Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 April 2009. Access Date: 30 March 2018. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0402.html>

the OECD's [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's] report 'Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth'.<sup>5436</sup>

The G20 also addressed the issue of climate finance at the 2014 Brisbane Summit, where the leaders committed to support the efforts to mobilize "finance for adaptation and mitigation," including through the Green Climate Fund.<sup>5437</sup>

In 2015 with the adoption of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the climate change discourse shifted towards sustainability and the necessity to uphold balance among environmental, social and economic aspects of development.

### Commitment Features

The commitment requires the G20 members to foster inclusive finance, through both public and private finance mobilization for climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. To achieve full compliance the G20 member must make efforts to attract public and private resources to promote climate change adaptation and resilience building, which includes building resilient infrastructure, raising public awareness on climate change issues, increasing institutional capacities to counter climate change ramifications, and providing aid to vulnerable communities domestically and/or abroad.

Partial compliance is awarded if the G20 member manages to attract either public or private finance to achieve the abovementioned goals. Non-compliance is awarded if the G20 members makes no effort to attract either public or private finance to achieve these goals.

This assessment covers G20 members' actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

### Scoring Guidelines

-1	G20 member does NOT mobilize inclusive public or private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.
0	G20 member mobilizes inclusive public OR private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.
+1	G20 member mobilizes inclusive public AND private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

*Centre for International Institutions Research*

### Argentina: 0

Argentina has partially complied with the commitment to foster inclusive finance for sustainable development.

On 26 September 2019, the first workshop was held for representatives of private associations and companies in Buenos Aires to discuss the role of the private sector in long-term local climate planning. The goal was to incorporate the perspective of this sector in the climate planning of the City of Buenos Aires.<sup>5438</sup>

<sup>5436</sup> G20 Leaders' Declaration Hamburg, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 23 May 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5437</sup> G20 Leaders' Communique Brisbane, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communique.html>

<sup>5438</sup> Se realizó el primer taller sobre cambio climático destinado al sector privado, City of Buenos Aires 9 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.buenosaires.gob.ar/agenciaambiental/cambioclimaticoyenergiasustentable/noticias/se-realizo-el-primer-taller-sobre>

On 27 November 2019, the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development concluded the elaboration of the first National Plan for Adaptation and Mitigation to Climate Change that aims to advance in the fulfillment of the objectives assumed in the Paris Agreement, and the National Sectoral Action Plans for Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Industry, Health, Infrastructure and Territory and Forests. The document seeks to advance in the implementation of the commitment assumed by Argentina in the nationally determined contribution (NDC), revised and presented at 22nd Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Marrakech in 2016.<sup>5439</sup>

On 26 December 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation announced formalization of Law No. 27520 on Minimum Budgets for Climate Change. The norm is of fundamental importance to formalize and institutionalize the work mechanics implemented within the framework of the National Cabinet on Climate Change and the Climate Change Commission of the Federal Council for the Environment.<sup>5440</sup>

On 22 January 2020, Secretary for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Innovation María del Pilar Bueno Rubial met with the Minister Counselor Shinichi Sato, responsible for economic and environmental issues at the Embassy of Japan in Argentina, in search of starting a dialogue in the issues on the climate change agenda. The meeting focused on NDCs, adaptation and mitigation actions, the scope of the United Nations Conferences on Climate Change 25 and 26, the potential of different international financing instruments and the possibility of increasing cooperation in concrete actions for the benefit of the provinces.<sup>5441</sup>

Argentina has taken steps to mobilize public finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation but no actions on mobilization of private financing were registered yet.

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 13 August 2019, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced the government funding of AUD500 million for renewable energy development, climate change and disaster resilience building in the Pacific. According to the Prime Minister's message, this funding will be used to invest in renewable energy, ensure new infrastructure can withstand disasters and ensure health services are well positioned to respond to changing needs.<sup>5442</sup>

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<sup>5439</sup> Ambiente elaboró el Plan Nacional de Adaptación y Mitigación al Cambio Climático, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 27 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-elaboro-el-plan-nacional-de-adaptacion-y-mitigacion-al-cambio-climatico>

<sup>5440</sup> Se oficializó la Ley de Presupuestos Mínimos de Cambio Climático, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-oficializo-la-ley-de-presupuestos-minimos-de-cambio-climatico>

<sup>5441</sup> Se repasaron temas de la agenda del cambio climático con representantes de Japón en Argentina, Government of Argentina (Buenos Aires) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-repasaron-temas-de-la-agenda-del-cambio-climatico-con-representantes-de-japon-en>

<sup>5442</sup> Stepping up climate resilience in the Pacific, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/stepping-climate-resilience-pacific>.

On 16 April 2020, the government launched the research and development phase of its Reef Restoration and Adaptation Science Program, with a target to preserve and restore the Great Barrier Reef in the face of rising ocean temperatures and coral bleaching. The government provided AUD150 million for the first phase of the program. It also committed AUD100 million through the Great Barrier Reef Foundation, which proposes to raise another AUD100 million in private funds.<sup>5443</sup>

On 11 May 2020, the Government of Australia announced a new AUD650 million Regional Bushfire Recovery and Development Program, aimed at helping the communities, affected by bushfires. AUD27.1 million is directed specifically to strengthen telecommunications infrastructure resilience to future natural disasters.<sup>5444</sup>

On 14 July 2020, Australian Minister for the Environment Sussan Ley and Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef Warren Entsch issued a Joint Statement, announcing that the Great Barrier Reef Foundation would lead AUD96 million worth of Australian government spending on reef protection in 2020 as part of the AUD443.3 million Reef Trust Partnership. Key activities under the Partnership include the development of reef restoration and adaptation science, with more than AUD23 million to support the Reef Restoration and Adaptation Program, utilizing new technologies to boost reef resilience such as coral shading.<sup>5445</sup>

Australia has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 28 November 2019, Decree No. 10,143 was issued, which provides for the National Fund on Climate Change and the National Policy on Climate Change. This decree deals with changes related to the National Fund on Climate Change. Climate Fund has been inoperative throughout 2019, due to the lack of appointment of its management committee, which this act tries to correct. The proposed new composition of the committee favours the representation and participation of the private sector and civil society.<sup>5446</sup>

On 28 November 2019, Decree No. 10,145 was issued. It establishes permanent Interministerial Committee on Climate Change with the purpose of establishing guidelines, articulating and coordinating the implementation of public actions and policies in the country related to climate

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<sup>5443</sup> Joint Media Release: \$150 million to drive innovations to boost Reef resilience, Australian Government (Canberra) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/ley/media-releases/150-million-drive-innovations-boost-reef-resilience>.

<sup>5444</sup> Boost for bushfire recovery, Prime Minister of Australia (Canberra) 11 May 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/boost-bushfire-recovery>.

<sup>5445</sup> Joint Media Release: Working together to protect the Reef in 2020-21, Australia Government (Canberra) 14 July 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020.

<sup>5446</sup> Decreto Nº 10.143, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 28 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2019-2022/2019/decreto/D10143.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2019/decreto/D10143.htm)



change. The committee will promote dialogue with the National Congress, subnational governments, society, the business sector and the scientific-academic sector.<sup>5447</sup>

On 2 October 2020, three largest private banks in Brazil, Itaú Unibanco, Bradesco and Santander, reported that they have joined the Brasil Clima, Forests and Agriculture Coalition, created to address issues arising from climate change.<sup>5448</sup>

Brazil has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 15 August 2019, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced the launch of Canada's climate data portal: ClimateData.ca. This portal was designed to provide user-friendly climate change information, data, resources and tools.<sup>5449</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson announced up to CAD2.3 million from the government's Low Carbon Economy Fund to support a climate action initiative by the Government of Yukon. This investment was intended to go toward connecting an existing biomass heating system used at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre's to two additional public, reducing emissions by 82 per cent.<sup>5450</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Member of Parliament for Windsor–Tecumseh Irek Kusmierczyk on behalf of Minister Wilkinson announced CAD125,000 in government funding through the Climate Action Fund to the University of Windsor. With this investment, Windsor law students were expected to organize two conferences to train and engage youth and community builders on the legal and policy aspects of municipal climate change mitigation.<sup>5451</sup>

On 10 March 2020, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan announced over CAD13 million in funding for 24 projects as part of the Coastal Restoration Fund.

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<sup>5447</sup> Decreto Nº 10.145, Government of Brazil (Brasilia) 28 November 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. [http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil\\_03/\\_ato2019-2022/2019/decreto/D10145.htm](http://www.planalto.gov.br/ccivil_03/_ato2019-2022/2019/decreto/D10145.htm)

<sup>5448</sup> Maiores bancos privados do Brasil aderem a coligação contra mudanças climáticas, Plataforma Media 2 October 2020. Access date: 5 October 2020. <https://plataformamedia.com/2020/10/02/maiores-bancos-privados-do-brasil-aderem-a-coligacao-contra-mudancas-climaticas/>

<sup>5449</sup> Canada launches new climate data portal to give Canadians reliable tools to adapt to climate change, CISION (Ottawa) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 17 May 2020. <https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/canada-launches-new-climate-data-portal-to-give-canadians-reliable-tools-to-adapt-to-climate-change-861375773.html>.

<sup>5450</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2020. Access Date 17 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>.

<sup>5451</sup> New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 4 March 2020. Access Date 17 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>.

According to the ministerial data, over 37 per cent of the projects funded by the Coastal Restoration Fund are led by Indigenous organizations in terms of design and implementation.<sup>5452</sup>

On 7 August 2020, the Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, on behalf of Minister Wilkinson, announced that the Government of Canada investment of nearly CAD175,000 over two years for the implementation of two projects in the Thunder Bay area. The first project's focus is water, soil, and sediment sampling and continued monitoring of the First Nation's traditional territory on Lake Superior and surrounding watersheds. The second project aims to improve and create 10 hectares of habitat along the McIntyre River, by planting trees, shrubs, grasses, and perennials; installing bird boxes, a log pile, and a low-impact trail; establishing permanent no-mowing zones; and creating pollinator gardens.<sup>5453</sup>

On 21 September 2020, Canada's Minister of Natural Resources announced a CAD1 million investment into Laval University for a climate change adaptation training program for urban planners, architects and engineers. This project aims to provide training on current and future climate change impacts such as flooding and coastal erosion, risk assessment methods, adaptation measures and the role of urban planners, architects and engineers in a changing climate context.<sup>5454</sup>

Canada has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

#### **China: +1**

China has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

In August 2019, the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, People's Bank of China, Banking Regulatory Commission, National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), Ministry of Finance (MOF) and other relevant departments promoted the establishment of the Chinese Society for Environmental Society's Climate Investment and Financing Professional Committee, establishing a good platform for the exchange of information in the field of climate investment and financing, industry and financial docking and international cooperation.<sup>5455</sup>

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<sup>5452</sup> Government of Canada invests in aquatic habitat through the Oceans Protection Plan, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 10 March 2020. Access Date 17 May 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-invests-in-aquatic-habitat-through-the-oceans-protection-plan.html>.

<sup>5453</sup> The Government of Canada announces funding for local projects to protect Great Lakes, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 7 August 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/the-government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-local-projects-to-protect-great-lakes.html>.

<sup>5454</sup> Canada Invests in Climate Change Adaptation Training, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 21 September 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2020/09/canada-invests-in-climate-change-adaptation-training.html>.

<sup>5455</sup> China's Policies and Actions for Addressing Climate Change (2019), Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China (Beijing) 04 December 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <http://english.mee.gov.cn/Resources/Reports/reports/201912/P020191204495763994956.pdf>

On 18 October 2019, China, India and the European Union's representatives held a meeting on rules and standards for public and private green investments. The purpose of the initiative is to harmonize rules to allow private capital move around more freely.<sup>5456</sup>

On 23 October 2019, the representatives of Chinese banks, local governments, expert community and international donors took part in the "Green Finance and Economic Transition" seminar hosted by Agence Française de Développement, the MOF, the NDRC and the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission. The meeting was dedicated to promotion of investments towards low-carbon development.<sup>5457</sup>

On 26 March 2020, the World Bank approved a loan of USD300 million for China to foster green agriculture investments, development of standards and technological innovation in Henan Province. The project will foster the development of green agriculture financing standards based on globally accepted green investment principles, good practices and performance benchmarks, as applicable to China's agriculture sector.<sup>5458</sup>

On 29 May 2020, China has announced its intention to halt financing for so-called coal projects through green bonds. This step could convince foreign investors to play a greater role in sustainable debt market.<sup>5459</sup>

China is taking steps to mobilize both public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

#### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 28 August 2019, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France will double its contribution to the Green Climate Fund and allocate EUR1.548 billion to the replenishment of the Fund.<sup>5460</sup>

On 29 October 2019, the Agence française du développement (AFD) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment launching the GEMMES research program. GEMMES is General Monetary and Multisectoral Macrodynamics for the Ecological Shift aimed to help make informed macroeconomic decisions regarding development and environmental issues.<sup>5461</sup>

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<sup>5456</sup> EU, China, others, team up to coordinate 'green' investment financing, Reuters 18 October 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-worldbank-green-investment/eu-china-others-team-up-to-coordinate-green-investment-financing-idUSKBN1WX2IE>

<sup>5457</sup> In Beijing, a meeting to promote green finance, AFD (Beijing) 06 November 2019. Access date: 24 March 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/beijing-meeting-promote-green-finance>

<sup>5458</sup> China: Developing Green Finance in Agriculture, the World Bank (Washington) 26 March 2020. Access date: 15 May 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/03/26/china-developing-green-finance-in-agriculture>

<sup>5459</sup> China to stop green bond financing for 'clean coal' projects, Financial Times 29 May 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.ft.com/content/253f969c-37e0-42cd-9cdf-e06a5262fffe>

<sup>5460</sup> France doubles its contribution to the Green Climate Fund, Green Climate Fund (Incheon) 28 August 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/news/france-doubles-its-contribution-green-climate-fund>

<sup>5461</sup> Finding climate solutions in Vietnam with Etienne Espagne, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/finding-climate-solutions-vietnam-etienne-espagne>

On 26 November 2019, AFD signed an agreement with the Congolese government to support sustainable agriculture in the country's savannas and degraded forests. The project is financed by a EUR13.5 million from the Central African Forest Initiative and seeks to protect tree cover as both a precious natural habitat, and a barrier against carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>5462</sup>

On 6 January 2020, AFD launched a joint capacity-building project with the French Treasury worth EUR108 million in the marine meteorology sector in Indonesia. The objective was to address increasingly frequent extreme climate events and strengthen the resilience of coastal populations through data collection.<sup>5463</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the parties to the Climate Finance Partnership (CFP) reached an agreement on the core terms and structure of their flagship blended finance investment vehicle. The parties to the CFP are France, Germany, the Hewlett and Grantham foundations, and BlackRock. CFP investments will be targeted toward select countries in South East Asia, Latin America, and Africa. Notably, investments in Africa will account for at least 25 per cent of the total capital invested. The Governments of France, through AFD, and Germany, with the KfW acting as a trustee, intend to contribute USD30 million each to the partnership.<sup>5464</sup>

On 24 February 2020, AFD informed on the launch of the first disaster preparedness and management tool for local government units in the Philippines. The aim of the project is to improve capacities for natural disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.<sup>5465</sup>

On 20 March 2020, AFD and the Mexican Ministry of Finance signed a public policy loan agreement. This loan marked the official start of a green and inclusive support program for Mexico. The objective is to help Mexico channel public and private funds into low-carbon, inclusive growth, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement. Besides, it would facilitate the work on risk management and resilience, particularly as it pertains to infrastructure.<sup>5466</sup>

On 11 May 2020, AFD and the EU launched Water and Natural Resources Management (WARM) program in Vietnam. The WARM facility aims to support the preparation and implementation of strategic investment projects for water and natural resource management. This facility is financed with a EUR20 million European Union grant delegated to AFD, which will mobilize those funds in coordination with the Vietnamese authorities. The projects supported will also benefit from AFD loans and Vietnam's own resources over the period 2021-2029, for a total estimated amount of EUR200 million.<sup>5467</sup>

On 24 July 2020, AFD signed a memorandum of understanding with the Policy Department of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Cambodia to formalize the support of EUR300,000 for

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<sup>5462</sup> Protecting the Congo's forests — and the planet's air, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/protecting-congos-forests-and-planets-air>.

<sup>5463</sup> Indonesia: marine meteorology on the front lines, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/indonesia-marine-meteorology-front-lines>.

<sup>5464</sup> DAVOS 2020 — Climate Finance Partnership, French Development Agency (Paris) 22 January 2020. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/communique-de-presse/davos-2020-climate-finance-partnership>

<sup>5465</sup> Laurent Klein: "disaster risks preparedness and management are played out at the local government level", French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 24 February 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/laurent-klein-disaster-risks-preparedness-and-management-are-played-out-local-government-level>.

<sup>5466</sup> "Mexico is on its way to a major climate transition" — Jean-Baptiste Sabatié, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/mexico-its-way-major-climate-transition-jean-baptiste-sabatie>.

<sup>5467</sup> Vietnam: Improving the management and Resilience of Natural Resources, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 18 May 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/vietnam-improving-management-and-resilience-natural-resources>.

sustainable energy development in Cambodia. One of the aims of the project is to define a long-term energy sector trajectory in line with the long-term objective of the Paris Agreement on the basis of scenarios for the evolution of the sector and its impact on economic growth.<sup>5468</sup>

France is taking steps to mobilize both public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

*Analysts: Andrey Shelepov and Irina Popova*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 19 September 2019, the federal government adopted the Climate Action Programme 2030. It for the first time gave the national climate targets the status of law. The program provided phasing out coal-fired electricity generation by 2038 at the latest. In order to immediately create better incentives for climate-friendly behaviour and investment, it set up new support programs and adapted existing ones. The government committed to allocating the climate package of EUR54 billion in the period up until 2023. Over time, this support will be increasingly accompanied, and partly replaced, by the regulatory framework. Complementing this, the German government also introduced carbon pricing in the transport and building sectors. During the 2021–2025 period, emissions allowances will be issued at a fixed price which will increase each year. In 2025, the German government will decide on the specifics of the national emissions trading scheme as of 2027. In the long term, the German national scheme will be incorporated into the European emissions trading system. All of the revenue from carbon pricing will be reinvested in climate-related measures, or returned to taxpayers. According to the program, by 2030 at least 65 per cent of electricity will be generated from renewable resources. One of the measures included in the program is supporting the installation of private charging stations for electric vehicles in multi-family housing by tax breaks for installation costs.<sup>5469</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the government adopted the National Bioeconomy Strategy. It lays out the guidelines and objectives of bioeconomic policy and identifies measures to implement the policy. For the strategic objectives, specific implementation goals are laid down in the fields of research promotion, framework design and overarching instruments.<sup>5470</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the government and the four federal states in which lignite is mined agreed on a roadmap to phase out coal-fired power stations. This could make it possible to complete the phase-out three years earlier than originally planned, by 2035. The government is to provide EUR40 billion to support the federal states affected.<sup>5471</sup>

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<sup>5468</sup> Reconciling energy transition and economic development in Cambodia: the 2050 Facility mobilized, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 11 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/reconciling-energy-transition-and-economic-development-cambodia-2050-facility-mobilized>.

<sup>5469</sup> What is the Climate Action Programme 2030?, German Federal Ministry of Finance 19 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Climate-Action/2019-09-19-climate-action-programme-2030.html>.

<sup>5470</sup> For an economy based on resource cycle management, German Federal Government 15 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/sustainability/biooekonomie-1712668>.

<sup>5471</sup> Roadmap agreed for phasing out the use of coal, German Federal Government 16 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/sustainability/einigung-zum-kohleausstieg-1712990>.

Germany has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Sbelepov*

#### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 13 November 2019, India kicked off a USD43 million project to boost climate resilience in three coastal states in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund, established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to assist developing countries.<sup>5472</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Indian officials announced new financing approach to boost investment in clean energy during the climate talks in Madrid this week. The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, the country's premier public finance institution, is considering an allocation of USD20 million in seed funding to set up its pioneering "Green Window" aimed toward catalyzing private investment and expanding the Indian clean energy market. A green window is a financing approach designed leverage limited government funds to attract private capital to achieve climate and clean energy goals.<sup>5473</sup>

India has made efforts to mobilize both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

#### **Indonesia: +1**

Indonesia has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

In September 2019, Indonesia, officially joined Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals (P4G) Initiative aimed to connect and incorporate all leaders in private sector, government, and civil society organizations to deliver the nationally determined contribution under Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in five key areas, namely food and agriculture (SDG 2), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities (SDG 11) and circular economy (SDG 12). P4G summits are held biannually, and Indonesia will be hosting the next summit in 2022.<sup>5474</sup>

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<sup>5472</sup> India gets USD 43 million from Green Climate Fund to boost climate resilience in 3 coastal states, India Today (Delhi) 13 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/green-climate-fund-to-boost-climate-resilience-india-1618650-2019-11-13>

<sup>5473</sup> Government is committed to manage renewable energy curtailment and enhance ease of doing business, Press Information Bureau of Indian Government (Delhi) 10 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595743>

<sup>5474</sup> Indonesia's P4G National Platform Launch: A Decade of Partnership 13 March. 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://gggi.org/indonesias-p4g-national-platform-launch-a-decade-of-partnership/>

On 23 September 2019, Vice President M. Jusuf Kalla shared Indonesia's low-carbon development policy at the Climate Action Summit, in the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly in New York. He emphasized the urgency of international cooperation in handling climate change issues by increasing financial support and technology transfer for energy transition, mitigation, and adaptation. Indonesia took part in the following initiatives released during the UN Climate Action Summit 2019:<sup>5475</sup>

- Energy Storage Initiative, whereby donor countries together with World Bank Group/ESMAP in collaboration with the Climate Investment Funds, including African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Inter-American Development Bank launched Energy Storage Initiative with initially USD500 million in funding. The investment program would mobilize an additional USD2 billion of public and private investments for approximately 17.5 GW of battery storage by 2025, thereby catalyzing a market of 200-400 GW in developing countries and accelerating cost reduction potentially by five to seven years. Indonesia will be one of the recipient countries.
- Coalition for Sustainable Energy Access, whereby national governments (including Indonesia) committed to work towards: (i) 100% access to sufficient, affordable, modern and renewable energy by all citizens in least developed countries (LDCs) by 2030; (ii) 100% electricity from renewable energy sources in all LDCs by 2050; (iii) 100% energy efficiency along the value chain by 2040. The coalition aims to benefit rural, remote and vulnerable areas in developing countries, with special emphasis on LDCs that would have high impact on universal energy access rate via off-grid from solar home systems, mini-grid, on grid expansion, intensification and densification with cooking energy and productive use with the ambition of "leaving no one behind" through mobilizing competitive energy financing.

On 26 September 2019, the World Bank reported, that its Board of Executive Directors approved a USD150 million loan for Indonesia to scale up investments in geothermal energy by reducing the risks of early-stage exploration. The loan is accompanied by USD127.5 million in grants from the Green Climate Fund and the Clean Technology Fund, two institutions supporting climate-friendly development. Geothermal energy is expected to play a significant role in reducing Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions. As a clean and renewable energy source that provides power continuously, geothermal can reduce the country's dependence on coal-fired power and other fossil fuels. If geothermal resources can be accessed easily, costs are competitive with coal and natural gas.<sup>5476</sup>

On October 2019, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati reported that Indonesia launched an agency to manage funds for climate change management as part of its efforts to meet its climate goals. The new agency is expected to start operation on 2020 and will have an initial fund of around IDR2 trillion (USD141 million). The funds will come from land reclamation payments and fines the government collects from environment criminal cases, as well as from donors. "With the establishment of this agency, we hope that donor countries and institutions will be more confident in committing to provide environmental funds," the minister said.<sup>5477</sup>

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<sup>5475</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the Way Forward in 2020 11 December 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. [https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/cas\\_report\\_11\\_dec.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/cas_report_11_dec.pdf)

<sup>5476</sup> Indonesia: Scaling Up Geothermal Energy by Reducing Exploration Risks 26 September 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/09/26/indonesia-scaling-up-geothermal-energy-by-reducing-exploration-risks>

<sup>5477</sup> Indonesia launches agency to manage environment funds 09 October 2019. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/indonesia-launch-agency-manage-environment-climate-change-funds-11985144>

On January 2020, the Indonesian government issued the country's National Medium-Term Development Plan 2020-2024, into which climate-related sustainable development issues are integrated.<sup>5478</sup>

On February 2020, the Indonesian government announced its plans to introduce a feed-in-tariff pricing scheme to boost investment in the green energy sector. The new regulation is to be implemented by June 2020.<sup>5479</sup>

Indonesia has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 21 January 2020, Italian Ministry of Economic Development published the definitive version of the Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, elaborated in concert with the Ministry of the Environment and Protection of Natural Resources and the Sea and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. The plan, inter alia, provides for the creation of “resilient energy system that remains reliable through short- and mid-term climate scenarios,” reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving energy efficiency, including through the introduction of renewable energy sources, as well as ensuring energy security. The plan also calls for the elaboration of “effective ways of attracting private investments, not just in terms of generation, but also storage facilities.”<sup>5480</sup>

Italy has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakharov*

### **Japan: +1**

Japan has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

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<sup>5478</sup> Indonesia's P4G National Platform Launch: A Decade of Partnership 13 March 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://gggi.org/indonesias-p4g-national-platform-launch-a-decade-of-partnership/>

<sup>5479</sup> Indonesia to mend contract scheme to boost green energy projects 06 February 2020. Access date: 28 March 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2020/02/06/indonesia-to-mend-contract-scheme-to-boost-green-energy-projects.html>

<sup>5480</sup> Pubblicato il testo definitivo del Piano Energia e Clima (PNIEC), Italian Ministry of Economic Development (Rome) 21 January 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.mise.gov.it/index.php/it/198-notizie-stampa/2040668-pniec2030>.



On 27 August 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and the World Bank signed a memorandum of cCooperation to scale up the Joint Crediting Mechanism projects under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.<sup>5481</sup>

On 5 September 2019, the Pacific Climate Change Centre of Excellence was opened in Samoa funded by the Government of Japan. The centre will be a hub for climate change information, research, and innovation, and will provide practical tools, knowledge, support and training to address the adaptation and mitigation priorities of the Asia Pacific region.<sup>5482</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a grant agreement with the Government of Vanuatu to provide grant aid of up to 1,715 billion yen for the Project for the Disaster Reconstruction of Teouma Bridge; the project will contribute to the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 Climate Action.<sup>5483</sup>

On 21 February 2020, JICA signed an official development assistance agreement with the Government of Fiji to provide a loan up to JPY50 million to ensure reserve funds to respond to the immediate financial demands of a post-disaster recovery and the rehabilitation phase, together with mainstreaming policies related to disaster risk reduction in Fiji; the agreement will contribute to the SDG 13 Climate Action.<sup>5484</sup>

On 28 February 2020, the Joint Committee of the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan announced first issuance of credit under the mechanism; the issuance supported by the Financing Programme for the Joint Crediting Mechanism Model Projects by the Ministry of the Environment will finance introduction of ultra-lightweight solar panels for power generation at international school.<sup>5485</sup>

On 9 March 2020, the Joint Committee of the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan announced first issuance of credit under the mechanism; the issuance supported by the Financing Programme for the Joint Crediting Mechanism Model Projects by the Ministry of the Environment will finance introduction of high efficiency electrolyzer in Chlor-Alkali Production Plant.<sup>5486</sup>

Japan has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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<sup>5481</sup> Memorandum of cooperation between the World Bank and the Ministry of the Environment of Japan on collaboration for scaling-up of the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM), Japan's MOE 27 August 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2415.html>

<sup>5482</sup> The Pacific Climate Change Centre Is Officially Open, ReliefWeb 5 September 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/pacific-climate-change-centre-officially-open>

<sup>5483</sup> Signing of Grant Agreement with Vanuatu: Supporting the reconstruction of bridge and river training works to overcome vulnerabilities to natural disasters, JICA 18 December 2019. Access date: 23 March 2020. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191218\\_11\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20191218_11_en.html)

<sup>5484</sup> Signing of Japanese ODA Loan with Fiji: Contributing to immediate recovery from natural disasters, together with mainstreaming disaster risk reduction, JICA 21 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. [https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221\\_11\\_en.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/english/news/press/2019/20200221_11_en.html)

<sup>5485</sup> 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Cambodia and Japan, Japan's MOE 28 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2438.html>

<sup>5486</sup> 1st issuance of credits from the Joint Crediting Mechanism between Saudi Arabia and Japan, Japan's MOE 9 March 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2437.html>

**Korea: 0**

Korea has partially complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 28 October 2019, Korea together with the other door countries pledged to add USD9.6 billion to the Green Climate Fund. Korea itself would donate USD200 million. The fund seeks to raise funds from advanced economies and allocate them to developing countries so that they can respond more effectively to climate change.<sup>5487</sup>

Korea is taking steps to mobilize only public finance to promote climate change resilience.<sup>5488</sup>

Thus, Korea receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

**Mexico: +1**

Mexico has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 14 October 2019, as part of the preparatory process for 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (to be held on December 2 in Chile), Mexico participated in meetings to exchange information and good practices to combat climate change, including the rules that should govern international carbon trading. In the framework of the Carbon Neutrality Country Program, Mexico explained its progress in the area of the National Emission Registry as a mandatory measurement, reporting and verification scheme for establishments subject to reporting their emissions of compounds and greenhouse gases and gave know the recent publication of the preliminary bases of the Emissions Trading System Test Program. Also, the first meeting of the signatory countries of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean took place, where he reaffirmed his commitment to its prompt ratification.<sup>5489</sup>

On 12 February 2020, S&P Dow Jones Indices (S&P DJI) and the Mexican Stock Exchange (BMV Group) announced that RobecoSAM will be the official score provider for S&P/BMV Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) index products that will be created and launched in the future under the existing partnership agreement.<sup>5490</sup>

On 21 February 2020, The Federal Government of Mexico released its “SDG Sovereign Bond Framework”. It has mandated BNP Paribas, Credit Agricole CIB and Natixis (who acted as Sole SDG Sovereign Structuring Advisor) to arrange an investor roadshow in Europe. This Framework displays unique features: the use of the SDGs as entry point, a two-fold eligibility

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<sup>5487</sup> S. Korea doubles contribution to Green Climate Fund to \$200m, the Korea Herald (Seoul) 28 October 2019. Access date: 18 May 2020. <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20191028000686&np=91&mp=10>

<sup>5488</sup> Websites of the Korean government, Ministry of Environment as well as open sources were used.

<sup>5489</sup> México reitera su compromiso con el combate al cambio climático y la pronta ratificación del Acuerdo de Escazú, Mexican Government (Mexico City) 14 October 2019. Access date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/inecc/prensa/mexico-reitera-su-compromiso-con-el-combate-al-cambio-climatico-y-la-pronta-ratificacion-del-acuerdo-de-escazu-222936?idiom=es>

<sup>5490</sup> S&P DJI and the Mexican Stock Exchange Select RobecoSAM as the Official Score Provider for Future S&P BMV ESG Indices, SP Global 12 February 2020. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://www.spglobal.com/spdji/en//documents/index-news-and-announcements/20190212-spdji-bmv-esg-mexico.pdf>

that includes geospatial criterion and an enhanced governance that involves an international organization (the United Nations Development Programme) at various phases.<sup>5491</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the Agence française de développement and Mexico's Ministry of Finance signed a public policy loan agreement. This loan marked the official start of a green and inclusive support program for Mexico. The objective is to help Mexico channel public and private funds into low-carbon, inclusive growth, in line with the commitments of the Paris Agreement. Besides, it would facilitate the work on risk management and resilience, particularly as it pertains to infrastructure.<sup>5492</sup>

Mexico has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

### **Russia: +1**

Russia has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 21 September 2019, Russia adopted the Paris Agreement, providing for actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change.<sup>5493</sup>

On 25 December 2019, the Russian government adopted the national action plan for the first period of climate change adaptation up to 2022. The plan provides for improving the existing and developing new economic and financial instruments, as well as insurance mechanisms for better adapting to climate change, that are expected to use both public and private financing.<sup>5494</sup>

On 27 March 2020, Russia ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. Thus, it promised to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons by more than 80 per cent over the next 30 years to mitigate climate change.<sup>5495</sup>

Russia has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepov*

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<sup>5491</sup> Mexico's SDG Bond Framework: a two-fold eligibility and unique governance, Natixis 2 March 2020. Access date: 20 August 2020. <https://gsh.cib.natixis.com/our-center-of-expertise/articles/mexico-s-sdg-bond-framework-a-two-fold-eligibility-and-unique-governance>

<sup>5492</sup> "Mexico is on its way to a major climate transition" — Jean-Baptiste Sabatié, French Development Cooperation Agency (AFD) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 20 May 2020. <https://www.afd.fr/en/actualites/mexico-its-way-major-climate-transition-jean-baptiste-sabatie>.

<sup>5493</sup> Government decree of 21 September 2019 No. 1228 On Adopting the Paris Agreement, Government of Russia 21 September 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/IOUS0FqDc05omQ1VgnC8rfl6PbY69AvA.pdf>.

<sup>5494</sup> Government order of 25 December 2019 No. 3183-r, Government of Russia 25 December 2019. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://static.government.ru/media/files/OTrFMr1Z1sORh5Nlx4gLUsdgGHyWIAqy.pdf>.

<sup>5495</sup> Russia Ratified the Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Government of Russia 27 March 2020. Access Date: 15 May 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39294/>.

### **Saudi Arabia: +1**

Saudi Arabia has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 29 September 2019, the Saudi Industrial Development Fund announced the launch of a loan program aimed at promotion of projects in renewable sources of energy. The program will give loans of as much as SAR1.2 billion, depending on a company's ownership, targeting renewable-energy component manufacturers as well as independent production projects. The fund will also offer financing for firms in other sectors that want to start using such energy.<sup>5496</sup>

On 1 October 2019, Saudi Arabia commenced a renewable energy development programme offering loans for clean energy projects and the manufacturers of renewable energy components. The USD28 billion Saudi Industrial Development Fund's Mtujadedda programme is expected to help the country move from its dependence on crude oil, towards other diversified energy sources.<sup>5497</sup>

Saudi Arabia is taking steps to mobilize both public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **South Africa: +1**

South Africa has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 26 August 2019, the Development Bank of South Africa and the Green Climate Fund established a Climate Finance Facility. The new entity is said to attract private investments in green projects in Southern Africa countries. The initial capitalization of the facility reaches USD100 million.<sup>5498</sup>

On 2 March 2020, South Africa's Standard Bank raised USD200 million by issuing the green bonds on the London Stock Exchange. All the issued bonds were bought by a subsidiary body of the World Bank — the International Financial Corporation. The recent transaction is the largest one among all African countries. Standard Bank aims to improve access to climate finance in the country.<sup>5499</sup>

On 7 July 2020, Nedbank, one of the biggest South African banks (partly owned by the government) has announced its intention to debut USD 117 million to support renewable energy investments in South Africa.<sup>5500</sup>

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<sup>5496</sup> Saudi Arabia Offers Loans to Develop Renewable Energy, Bloomberg 29 September 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-09-29/saudi-arabia-starts-offering-loans-to-develop-renewable-energy>

<sup>5497</sup> Saudi Arabia launches \$28 billion renewable energy funding initiative, Smart Energy International (Cape Town) 01 October 2019. Access date: 30 March 2020. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/business-finance-regulation/saudi-arabia-launches-28-billion-renewable-energy-funding-initiative/>

<sup>5498</sup> South Africa establishes Climate Finance Facility, Smart Cities World (London) 26 August 2019. Access date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.smartcitiesworld.net/news/news/southern-africa-establishes-climate-finance-facility-4516>

<sup>5499</sup> South Africa: Standard Bank Raises \$200 million in green bonds; a record, Afrik 24 (Paris) 06 March 2020. Access date: 26 March 2020. <https://www.afrik21.africa/en/south-africa-standard-bank-raises-200-million-in-green-bonds-a-record/>

<sup>5500</sup> Nedbank debuts R2bn renewable energy bond on JSE, IT Web 07 July 2020. Access date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.itweb.co.za/content/nWJad7bexV2vbjo1>

South Africa is taking steps to mobilize both public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Alexander Ignatov*

### **Turkey: 0**

Turkey has partially complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 23 September 2019, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan speaking at the United Nations Climate Action Summit stressed out that climate change is a “global problem that knows no bounds.” Turkey took active part in the following initiatives released during the Climate Action Summit 2019:<sup>5501</sup>

- The Infrastructures, Cities and Local Action coalition, led by Kenya and Turkey with the support of UN Habitat, aimed at identifying concrete solutions to address the challenge of the securing climate future and successfully implementing national climate plans, including nationally determined cContributions, through decarbonization and green development of the cities;
- “Zero Carbon Buildings for All,” whereby national governments (including Turkey) along with subnational governments and other leaders committed to develop and implement policies to drive decarbonization of all new buildings by 2030 and all existing buildings by 2050. Financial partners including the International Finance Corporation, European Investment Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, African Development Bank, Investment Fund for Developing Countries) and industry partners committed to providing expert input, setting an aim to invest USD1 trillion in zero carbon buildings by 2030.

On 8 November 2019, it was reported that the Ministry for Environment and Urbanization of Turkey has initiated creation of the National Green Certificate System (YeS-TR) software infrastructure to ease access for certification of sustainable green buildings and green settlements.<sup>5502</sup>

On 1 March 2020, Turkcell and ING European Financial Services plc, an affiliate of ING in Turkey, have signed a “Green Loan” agreement of EUR50 million with a five-year term. The transaction marks the longest average-maturity corporate finance deal in green loan format in Turkey. As part of the agreement, Turkcell will utilize the loan facility to finance its sustainable investments — such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, green digital services and green buildings — under the internationally recognized green loan principles.<sup>5503</sup>

Turkey has taken steps to mobilize public finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation but no actions on mobilization of private financing were registered yet.

Thus, it is awarded a score of 0.

*Analyst: Pavel Doronin*

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<sup>5501</sup> Report of the Secretary-General on the 2019 Climate Action Summit and the Way Forward in 2020 11 December 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. [https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/cas\\_report\\_11\\_dec.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/assets/pdf/cas_report_11_dec.pdf)

<sup>5502</sup> Yerli Yeşil Sertifika Sistemi YeS-TR ile "Yeşil Bina" Sayısı Artacak 23 October 2019. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.csb.gov.tr/yerli-yesil-sertifika-sistemi-yes-tr-ile-yesil-bina-sayisi-artacak-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29700>

<sup>5503</sup> Turkcell And ING Signed the Longest Average-maturity Corporate Green Loan Agreement of 50 Million Euros March 11, 2020. Access date: 21 March 2020. <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200311005556/en/>

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 2 July 2019, the UK launched the Green Finance Strategy. The strategy brings together work from across the government, regulators and the private sector. It has three core elements: greening finance (ensuring current and future financial risks and opportunities from climate and environmental factors are integrated into mainstream financial decision making, and that markets for green financial products are robust in nature); financing green (accelerating finance to support the delivery of the UK's carbon targets and clean growth, resilience and environmental ambitions, as well as international objectives); and capturing the opportunity (ensuring UK financial services capture the domestic and international commercial opportunities arising from the "greening of finance," such as climate related data and analytics, and from "financing green," such as new green financial products and services). The strategy also provided for the establishment of the Green Finance Institute (GFI) that will play an integral role in supporting delivery of the Green Finance Strategy. The GFI will foster greater cooperation between the public and private sectors, create new opportunities for investors, and strengthen the UK's reputation as a global hub for green finance.<sup>5504</sup>

On 13 July 2019, International Development Secretary Rory Stewart announced an aid package to tackle climate change across Africa. The support would help sub-Saharan African countries build resilience to climate change and develop low carbon economies. The GBP250 million climate program would work across Sub-Saharan Africa, in partnership with African governments and institutions, to increase resilience and support the transition of countries to low carbon economies. The funding will also help build technical expertise across a range of sectors to support the continent to deal with the devastating impacts of climate change and help it move to clean energy sources. It would be the Department for International Development's (DFID's) largest single direct climate investment ever in the continent.<sup>5505</sup>

On 26 August 2019, DFID and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy pledged to contribute GBP1.44 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) over the next four years. This doubles the UK's previous contribution of GBP720 million between 2014 and 2019. The GCF supports projects to protect and preserve natural, reduce emissions and help people adapt to the impacts of climate change. Since GCF programs began in 2015, the GCF has provided USD5.2 billion to fund 111 projects and mobilized over USD13.5 billion of private sector and other co-investment.<sup>5506</sup>

On 30 December 2019, the UK government announced backing for a new GBP5 million satellite data centre involving the universities of Edinburgh and Leeds that will use cutting-edge satellite technology to help combat climate change, including helping lower the risk of people being affected by flooding. The data centre will bring together 50 of the UK's PhD researchers to help solve climate change problems. The centre will be funded by GBP2.3 million funding over three years from the Natural Environment Research Council core grant with money from UK Space Agency for specific student activity support. This would be matched by GBP3.4 million additional funding from business and industry as well as the

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<sup>5504</sup> Green finance, UK Government 2 July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/green-finance>.

<sup>5505</sup> UK aid's biggest ever single direct commitment to tackle climate change in Africa, UK Government 13 July 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aids-biggest-ever-single-direct-commitment-to-tackle-climate-change-in-africa>.

<sup>5506</sup> UK aid doubles support to reduce global carbon emissions and help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change, UK Government 26 August 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-doubles-support-to-reduce-global-carbon-emissions-and-help-developing-countries-adapt-to-the-impact-of-climate-change>.

universities own funds. Measurements from satellites on rising sea levels, greenhouse gases and shrinking glaciers and forests will help provide policy makers, government and industry with the data and knowledge they need to better understand the impact of climate change and make future predictions.<sup>5507</sup>

On 5 March 2020, Secretary of State for Business and 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change President Alok Sharma announced a GBP36.7 million investment to design, test and manufacture electric machines in some of the UK's most polluting industries. GDP30 million will be used to create a network of industrial centres specialising in the research and development of electric transport. The centres will bring together climate change pioneers to research and develop green electric machines including planes, ships and cars. The centres will help ensure the UK can reach net zero emissions by 2050.<sup>5508</sup>

On 25 August 2020, the UK government published the draft law aimed at protecting rainforests and cleaning up supply chains. The law would prohibit larger businesses operating in the UK from using products grown on land that was deforested illegally. These businesses would be required to carry out due diligence on their supply chains by publishing information to show where key commodities came from and that they were produced in line with local laws protecting forests and other natural ecosystems. Businesses that fail to comply would be subject to fines.<sup>5509</sup>

On 22 September 2020, the UK government launched a consultation to scale up green gas and reduce emissions from the gas grid. Consultation was launched on a Green Gas Levy to reduce emissions from the gas grid and help the UK reach its net zero target by 2050. The new levy will be applied to gas suppliers in Scotland, Wales and England, and will be used to increase green gas production to help decarbonise the gas grid. The new measures could prevent 21.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.<sup>5510</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the UK and Chile issued a joint call for ambition on emissions reduction, adaptation and financing plans ahead of 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>5511</sup>

The United Kingdom has mobilized both public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrey Shelepor*

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<sup>5507</sup> UK satellites to help lead the fight against climate change, UK Government 30 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-satellites-to-help-lead-the-fight-against-climate-change>.

<sup>5508</sup> UK Government funding creates Newport-based Industrialisation Centre to tackle climate change, UK Government 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-funding-creates-newport-based-centre-of-excellence-to-tackle-climate-change>.

<sup>5509</sup> World-leading new law to protect rainforests and clean up supply chains, UK Government 25 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/world-leading-new-law-to-protect-rainforests-and-clean-up-supply-chains>.

<sup>5510</sup> Gas goes green as UK takes another step toward net zero, UK Government 22 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gas-goes-green-as-uk-takes-another-step-toward-net-zero>.

<sup>5511</sup> UK and Chile urge countries to take ambitious action on climate change, UK Government 24 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-chile-urge-countries-to-take-ambitious-action-on-climate-change>.

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

The United States has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 13 August 2019, the Federal Emergency Management Agency released the National Mitigation Investment Strategy. The strategy was designed to provide a national, whole-community approach to investments in mitigation activities and risk management across federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments and the private and non-profit sectors.<sup>5512</sup> The three major goals of the Strategy are: “Show How Mitigation Investments Reduce Risk,” “Coordinate Mitigation Investments to Reduce Risk,” and “Make Mitigation Investment Standard Practice.”<sup>5513</sup>

On 15 August 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its participation in the National Mitigation Investment Strategy.<sup>5514</sup>

On 15 January 2020, the EPA announced its measures in response to a series of earthquakes in Puerto Rico. The EPA was working under a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mission assignment focused on lending aid to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Puerto Rico government agencies as they assessed water infrastructure. According to the EPA message, the agency was “conducting proactive and strategic engagement with its federal and public sector partners as well as the government of Puerto Rico while highlighting the foundation for a strong, resilient recovery that assures the protection of public health and the environment.”<sup>5515</sup>

On 15 April 2020, FEMA published a public notice of proposed policy in the Federal Register outlining the agency’s new Building Resilience Infrastructures and Communities program. The new program is designed to replace the Pre-Disaster Mitigation program. It is envisioned to support states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks they face from disasters while providing proactive investments in community resilience.<sup>5516</sup>

On 26 August 2020, the EPA along with Restore America’s Estuaries announced the awarding of USD1.8 million in funding to local organizations working for clean water and healthy coastal ecosystems in Southeast New England. The grant program builds and supports partnerships that tackle the region’s most pressing environmental issues, such as nutrient pollution and coastal habitat loss.<sup>5517</sup>

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<sup>5512</sup> FEMA Releases the National Mitigation Investment Strategy, FEMA (Washington) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2019/08/13/fema-releases-national-mitigation-investment-strategy>.

<sup>5513</sup> National Mitigation Investment Strategy, FEMA (Washington) 13 August 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020.

<https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1565706308412-19739d7deeca639415cc76c681cee531/NationalMitigationInvestmentStrategy.pdf>.

<sup>5514</sup> U.S. EPA Announces Federal Partnership to Build Nationwide Resilience to Natural Disasters, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 15 August 2019. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-announces-federal-partnership-build-nationwide-resilience-natural-disasters>.

<sup>5515</sup> EPA Responds to Puerto Rico Earthquakes; Assessing Sites and Facilities to Help the Puerto Rico Government, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 15 January 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-responds-puerto-rico-earthquakes-assessing-sites-and-facilities-help-puerto-rico>.

<sup>5516</sup> FEMA Publishes Public Notice for the New Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant Program, FEMA (Washington) 15 April 2020. Access Date: 16 May 2020. <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/15/fema-publishes-public-notice-new-building-resilient-infrastructure-and>.

<sup>5517</sup> EPA Coastal Restoration Grants Will Help Massachusetts and Rhode Island Communities, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 26 August 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-coastal-restoration-grants-will-help-massachusetts-and-rhode-island-communities>



On 3 September 2020, the EPA announced USD3.99 million in funding to five institutions to conduct research to build resilience in communities and among groups, that are more vulnerable to the potential environmental impacts of natural disasters. The institutions were expected to investigate topics such as understanding the effect of major coastal flooding events and identifying the most promising infrastructure solutions to reduce hurricane and flood-related industrial contaminant releases and exposures.<sup>5518</sup>

The United States has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Andrei Sakbarov*

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

The European Union has fully complied with the commitment on mobilizing public and private finance to promote climate change resilience.

On 14 November 2019, the board of the European Investment Bank (EIB) agreed a new energy lending policy and confirmed the EIB's increased ambition in climate action and environmental sustainability. The EIB will end financing for fossil fuel energy projects from the end of 2021. EIB Group financing will unlock EUR1 trillion of climate action and environmental sustainable investment in the decade to 2030. The EIB Group will align all financing activities with the goals of the Paris Agreement from the end of 2020.<sup>5519</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the European Commission welcomed political agreement between the European Parliament and the Council on the creation of the world's first-ever "green list" — a classification system for sustainable economic activities, or taxonomy. This will create a common language that investors can use everywhere when investing in projects and economic activities that have a substantial positive impact on the climate and the environment. It will help scale up private and public investments to finance the transition to a climate-neutral and green economy, redirecting capital to economic activities and projects that are truly sustainable.<sup>5520</sup>

On 14 January 2020, the European Commission presented the European Green Deal Investment Plan. To achieve the goals set by the European Green Deal, the plan will mobilise at least EUR1 trillion in sustainable investments over the next decade. The European Green Deal Investment Plan has three main objectives:

- First, it will increase funding for the transition, and mobilise at least EUR1 trillion to support sustainable investments over the next decade through the EU budget and associated instruments, in particular InvestEU;

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<sup>5518</sup> EPA Announces \$4 Million in Research Funding to Build Resilience and Protect Vulnerable Groups from Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 29 September 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-4-million-research-funding-build-resilience-and-protect-vulnerable-groups>

<sup>5519</sup> EU Bank launches ambitious new climate strategy and Energy Lending Policy, European Investment Bank (Kirchberg) 14 November 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2019-313-eu-bank-launches-ambitious-new-climate-strategy-and-energy-lending-policy>

<sup>5520</sup> Sustainable finance: Commission welcomes deal on an EU-wide classification system for sustainable investments (Taxonomy), European Commission (Brussels) 18 December 2019. Access date: 19 May 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_19\\_6793](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_19_6793)

- Second, it will create an enabling framework for private investors and the public sector to facilitate sustainable investments;
- Third, it will provide support to public administrations and project promoters in identifying, structuring and executing sustainable projects.

According to the plan, InvestEU will leverage around EUR279 billion of private and public climate and environment related investments over the period 2021-2030. It will provide an EU budget guarantee to allow the EIB Group and other implementing partners to invest in more and higher-risk projects, crowding in private investors.<sup>5521</sup>

On 10 February 2020, it was announced that small and medium-sized enterprises in Morocco will benefit from a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development credit line of up to EUR20 million to Crédit du Maroc dedicated to green investment and the development of value chains. The European Union and the Green Climate Fund are providing grants to help promote and implement the credit line. In addition, borrowers will benefit from free expert advice on green investment.<sup>5522</sup>

European Union has taken steps to mobilize public and private finance to promote climate change adaptation and mitigation.

Thus, it is awarded a score of +1.

*Analyst: Irina Popova*

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<sup>5521</sup> The European Green Deal Investment Plan and Just Transition Mechanism explained, European Commission (Brussels) 14 January 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020.

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_20\\_24](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_20_24)

<sup>5522</sup> European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and Crédit du Maroc boost green economy and value chains in Morocco, EU Neighbours (Brussels) 10 February 2020. Access date: 19 May 2020.

<https://euneighbours.eu/en/south/stay-informed/news/european-bank-reconstruction-and-development-and-credit-du-maroc-boost>

## 19. Climate Change: Innovation

“[To this end, we strive to foster] ... innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.”

*G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration*

### Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Argentina			+1
Australia			+1
Brazil			+1
Canada			+1
China			+1
France			+1
Germany			+1
India			+1
Indonesia		0	
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
Korea			+1
Mexico		0	
Russia		0	
Saudi Arabia		0	
South Africa		0	
Turkey			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.70 (85%)	

### Background

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s special report Global Warming of 1.5°C, “a changing climate leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration and timing of weather and climate extremes, and can result in unprecedented extremes.”<sup>5523</sup> The report also states that “some extremes have changed as a result of anthropogenic influences, including increases in atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases.”<sup>5524</sup> According to Canada’s National Post, G20 members are responsible for approximately 80 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>5525</sup> This commitment therefore represents the G20’s collective pledge to address climate change and its adverse effects, by simultaneously reducing emissions and developing alternative pathways to resilience.

<sup>5523</sup> Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 8 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>5524</sup> Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva) 8 October 2018. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>5525</sup> Canada’s plan to hit 2030 emission targets among the worst in G20, says report, National Post (Toronto) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 10 December 2019. <https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/canada-among-three-g20-countries-least-likely-to-hit-emissions-targets>

The 2009 Pittsburgh Summit marked the first comprehensive recognition of climate change as a critical issue for sustainable growth. While climate change had been mentioned at both the Washington and London summits, this summit represents a more in-depth consideration of the issue. Members recognized their shared interest in promoting energy security. They agreed to enhance their energy efficiency to “play an important, positive role in energy security and fighting climate change.”<sup>5526</sup> To achieve this, G20 leaders agreed to increase energy market transparency and improve regulatory oversight. In addition, they pledged to increase “clean and renewable energy supplies, improv[e] energy efficiency and promot[e] conservation ... to protect our environment, promote sustainable growth and address the threat of climate change.”<sup>5527</sup>

At the 2010 Seoul Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to “rationalize and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies; mitigate excessive fossil fuel price volatility; safeguard the global marine environment; and combat the challenges of global climate change.”<sup>5528</sup> To reflect their commitment to fight climate change, they said they would “spare no effort to reach a balanced and successful outcome” at the 2010 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun.<sup>5529</sup>

At the 2011 summit in Cannes, G20 members committed to continuing their efforts for sustainability, green growth and tackling climate change. They committed to climate financing to aid developing countries in the form of USD 100 billion per year “from all sources by 2020.”<sup>5530</sup>

At the 2012 Los Cabos Summit, the G20 committed to take action to fulfill their Rio+20 and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) agreements, the Green Climate Fund, implementation of Cancun and Durban outcomes and achieving greater outcomes at the 18th Conference of the Parties.<sup>5531</sup> To aid developing countries, there should be methods and mechanisms to share information pertaining to sustainable development. As such, the G20 members promoted the Green Growth Knowledge Platform to support interested developing countries.<sup>5532</sup> Ultimately, they recognized green growth and sustainable development as an essential part of prosperity and wellbeing.<sup>5533</sup>

At the 2013 summit in St. Petersburg, G20 leaders stated their “common interest in developing cleaner, more efficient and reliable energy supplies” and stressed their “commitment to work together to address climate change and environment protection” through international

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<sup>5526</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html#energy>

<sup>5527</sup> G20 Leaders Statement: The Pittsburgh Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 25 September 2009. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2009/2009communique0925.html#energy>

<sup>5528</sup> G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2010seoul.html>

<sup>5529</sup> G20 Seoul Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 12 November 2010. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/summits/2010seoul.html>

<sup>5530</sup> Cannes Summit Final Declaration — Building on our Common Future: Renewed Collective Action for the Benefit of All, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 4 November 2011. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2011/2011-cannes-declaration-111104-en.html>

<sup>5531</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration (Los Cabos), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>5532</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration (Los Cabos), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

<sup>5533</sup> G20 Leaders Declaration (Los Cabos), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 June 2012. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2012/2012-0619-loscabos.html>

cooperation.<sup>5534</sup> As such, they pledged their support for full implementation of the UNFCCC outcomes, and the Green Climate Fund.

At the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members reaffirmed their commitment to the UNFCCC outcomes. They also stated their support for “mobilising finance for adaptation and mitigation, such as the Green Climate Fund.”<sup>5535</sup> Additionally, they agreed that increased collaboration on energy was a “priority,” and stressed the need to adopt energy efficiency, and cost-effective methods of sustainable growth and energy security.<sup>5536</sup>

At the 2015 Antalya Summit, the G20 recognized climate change as “one of the greatest challenges of our time.”<sup>5537</sup> G20 members acknowledged both climate change and energy efficiency as important goals. They agreed to increase investments in clean energy technologies in order to combat change, improve energy efficiency, and to “rationalize and phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption.”<sup>5538</sup> Moreover, they also affirmed the below 2°C goal in the Lima Call for Action, and underscored their “commitment to reach an ambitious agreement in Paris.”<sup>5539</sup> G20 members submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions to the UNFCCC.<sup>5540</sup>

At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, G20 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strong and effective action against climate change and their support for the Paris Agreement and the Green Climate Fund. They stressed the importance of developed countries providing financial assistance to developing countries to adopt the Paris outcomes. They also stated that they looked forward to more successful multilateral outcomes from the Montreal Protocol.<sup>5541</sup>

At the 2017 Hamburg Summit, G20 members declared their resolve to tackle issues facing the global community such as climate change, because “a strong economy and a healthy planet are mutually reinforcing.”<sup>5542</sup> As such, members agreed to adopt and promote low greenhouse gas emission energy systems and collaborate closely and consistently with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>5543</sup> The 2030 Agenda marks a milestone because each member acknowledged its role both domestically and internationally in sustainability. Despite the withdrawal of the United States

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<sup>5534</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration (St. Petersburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2013/2013-0906-declaration.html>

<sup>5535</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Brisbane), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5536</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Brisbane), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2014. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/2014-1116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5537</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Antalya), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5538</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Antalya), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5539</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Antalya), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5540</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué (Antalya), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 November 2015. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2015/151116-communiqué.html>

<sup>5541</sup> G20 Leaders’ Communiqué: Hangzhou Summit, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 September 2016. Access date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2016/160905-communiqué.html>

<sup>5542</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5543</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

from the Paris Agreement, the other G20 members reiterated their support for it, stating its “irreversibility” and the importance of its implementation.<sup>5544</sup>

At the 2018 Buenos Aires Summit, the G20 noted the importance of the recent IPCC special report and adaptation strategies such as implementing disaster resilient infrastructure.<sup>5545</sup> Moreover, members recognized the utility of renewables, technologies and infrastructure for job creation and cleaner and sustainable energy.<sup>5546</sup>

At the 2019 Osaka Summit, G20 members recognized the need to use innovative methods to mitigate climate change, promote resilient development and bring about a paradigm shift, especially in vulnerable communities.<sup>5547</sup> To achieve these ends, G20 members were encouraged to “look into clean technologies and approaches, including small cities, ecosystem and community based approaches, nature based solutions and traditional and indigenous knowledge.”<sup>5548</sup> G20 members reaffirmed the Paris Agreement’s irreversibility and their determination to implement it fully. Accordingly, they pledged to “update and maintain” their Nationally Determined Goals to meet necessary goals.<sup>5549</sup>

### **Commitment Features**

G20 members committed to “strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.” In this commitment, the requirement has two parts: 1) to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and 2) to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development.

To “foster” is defined as “to encourage the development of something.”<sup>5550</sup> As “foster” essentially means encouragement, compliance can be achieved through supporting and implementing new policies or initiatives domestically and internationally that aim to reduce emissions and bring about resilience.

“Innovation” is defined as “a new idea method or device,” and “the introduction of something new.”<sup>5551</sup> As such, for this commitment, it is understood as the creation or adoption of new strategies, policies or initiatives. Science and technology play an important role in mitigating the effects of climate change. Innovation therefore means the creation of technology or policies that either offset or reduce emissions or leads to resilient development.

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<sup>5544</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Shaping an Interconnected World (Hamburg), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2017. Access date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/2017-G20-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5545</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5546</sup> G20 Leaders’ Declaration: Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires), G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 1 December 2018. Access date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5547</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5548</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5549</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5550</sup> Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 6 August 2019. Access Date: 19 April 2020. [http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance\\_Coding\\_Manual\\_2019.pdf](http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2019.pdf)

<sup>5551</sup> Innovation, Merriam Webster (Springfield) Access Date: 19 April 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/innovation>

“A wide range of areas” is understood as wide-ranging, meaning “extensive in scope; comprehensive.”<sup>5552</sup> This aspect of the commitment means that members are encouraged to take a variety of approaches. Accordingly, this part of the commitment needs to be quantified. In order for compliance to be wide-ranging, the threshold is set for at least three unique actions dedicated to fostering low emissions and resilience.

“Low emissions” is understood as continued efforts to meet the goals set out by the Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement signatories agreed to keep the rise in global temperature below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and take additional efforts to limit to 1.5°C.<sup>5553</sup> Actions taken that contravene this part of the commitment, meaning any encouragement to utilize methods that do not promote low emissions, shall be considered negative compliance.

“Resilient development” is understood as developing a capacity to recover from adverse climate change disasters and/or effects in order to reduce vulnerability. In this commitment, this refers to building measures to reduce risk in vulnerable communities both domestically and internationally.<sup>5554</sup>

In order to be awarded full compliance, G20 members must foster innovation in a wide range of areas, at least three in each regard, for innovation in low emissions and resilient development. Examples of a wide range of areas to foster both innovation for low emissions and resilient development includes, but is not limited to, fostering “clean technology and approaches including, smart cities, ecosystem and community-based approaches, nature based solutions and indigenous knowledge.”<sup>5555</sup> Specifically, actions that foster low emissions may include investment in renewable energy or low-carbon technology, but may also include increasing carbon sink capacity.<sup>5556</sup> Actions that foster resilient development might include investment in disaster reduction and recovery, such as “building flood defences, setting up early warning systems for cyclones and switching to drought-resistant crops, to redesigning communication systems, business operations and government policies.”<sup>5557</sup> To achieve partial compliance, or a score of 0, the G20 member must either take measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions OR resilient development. Non-compliance, a score of -1, will be obtained by those G20 members who do not take measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions NOR do they take measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development.

This assessment covers G20 members’ actions taken between 30 June 2019 and 10 October 2020.

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<sup>5552</sup> Wide-ranging, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) Access Date 19 April 2020. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/wide-ranging>

<sup>5553</sup> The Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

<sup>5554</sup> Disaster Risk and Resilience, United Nations (New York) Access Date: 10 December 2019. [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam\\_undf/thinkpieces/3\\_disaster\\_risk\\_resilience.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/thinkpieces/3_disaster_risk_resilience.pdf)

<sup>5555</sup> G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, G20 Information Centre (Toronto) 29 June 2019. Access Date: 20 November 2019. <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2019/2019-g20-osaka-leaders-declaration.html>

<sup>5556</sup> Renewable Energy Sources and Climate Change Mitigation: Summary for Policymakers and Technical Summary, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Geneva). Access Date: 21 April 2020. [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/SRREN\\_FD\\_SPM\\_final-1.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/03/SRREN_FD_SPM_final-1.pdf)

<sup>5557</sup> What do adaptation to climate change and climate resilience mean?, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn). Access Date: 21 April 2020. <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/the-big-picture/what-do-adaptation-to-climate-change-and-climate-resilience-mean>

**Scoring Guidelines**

-1	G20 member has not taken measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions OR resilient development.
0	G20 member has EITHER taken measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions OR resilient development.
+1	G20 member has taken measures to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions AND resilient development.

*Compliance Director: Kaylin Dave*

*Lead Analyst: Wayne George*

**Argentina: +1**

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 2 July 2019, Argentina, together with Israel and the Keren Kayemet Leisrael, carried out a conversation about innovation for environmental water management. Secretary of National Environment Sergio Bergman stressed the need for Argentina to change the governance matrix of the water, as water management is significant to sustainable development and care for the environment.<sup>5558</sup>

On 16 July 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development presented the Early Drought Information and Early Warning System in the southwest of Buenos Aires, as an initiative to address the problem of fragile soils in the semi-arid regions of the country. It provides reports which allow access to climate information three months in advance and thus be prepared for the occurrence of natural disasters, mitigating their impacts.<sup>5559</sup>

On 22 August 2019, President Mauricio Macri offered the President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro support and assistance for the severe fire disasters affecting the Amazon region. To help fight the fires and offer assistance, Argentina offered over 200 personnel with equipment, members of the National System for Comprehensive Risk Management.<sup>5560</sup>

On 30 August 2019, the National System for Comprehensive Risk Management, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship, and the Armed Forces coordinated in order to fight against the wildfires in Bolivia. A group of 227 people and logistical support equipment is expected to Santa Cruz de la Sierra.<sup>5561</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the governments of Argentina and Japan signed a memorandum of cooperation to boost the development of hydrogen as a pollution-free energy source during the

<sup>5558</sup> Innovation for environmental water management in the second Argentine-Israeli cooperation meeting, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 2 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-innovacion-para-la-gestion-ambiental-del-agua-en-el-segundo-encuentro-de-cooperacion>

<sup>5559</sup> Ambiente presented a tool to alert about droughts in the southwest of Buenos Aires, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-presento-una-herramienta-para-alertar-sobre-sequias-en-el-sudoeste-bonaerense>

<sup>5560</sup> Argentina supports Brazil over Amazon fires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 24 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-supports-brazil-over-amazon-fires>

<sup>5561</sup> Wildfires in Bolivia: Assistance from Argentina, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 30 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/wildfires-bolivia-assistance-argentina>



Second Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting. The meeting seeks to strengthen collaboration in promoting hydrogen as an alternative energy source, and the memorandum will promote investments in the sustainable energy field.<sup>5562</sup>

On 21 October 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development supported an initiative to reduce greenhouse gases in the local livestock sector in the province of Salta, within the framework of the annual meeting of the EuroCLIMATE Program. It facilitates the development of climate change mitigation policies in the local livestock sector, which has initiated an expansion process with technologies of high environmental impact.<sup>5563</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development formalized the first National Plan for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation through Resolution 447/2019. It aims to help meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the National Sectoral Action Plans for Energy, Transport, Agriculture, Industry, Health, Infrastructure and Territory and Forests. It responds to the need to cope with the challenges of climate change.<sup>5564</sup>

On 20 December 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, headed by Juan Cabandie, announced that Law No. 27520 of Minimum Climate Change Budgets had been formalized.<sup>5565</sup> It ensures the permanence in time of the National Climate Change Cabinet and positions the treatment of climate change as a state policy. Through this, the National Congress establishes the minimum budgets for the proper management of climate change, as well as establishing “instruments and strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.”<sup>5566</sup>

On 20 February 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development participated the 11th Meeting of Science-Political Interface of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. The convention aims to support the sustainable development actions conducted in the country. The ministry focused on increasing national capacities through consolidating the environmental commitments and strengthening the regional representation in decision-making.<sup>5567</sup>

On 26 February 2020, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandie had a bilateral meeting with Portugal’s Minister of Environment and Climate Action Joao Pedro Matos Fernandes. The meeting was to discuss issues of “climate change; air quality; water and sanitation;

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<sup>5562</sup> Argentina and Japan to work together in development of hydrogen as clean fuel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-japan-work-together-development-hydrogen-clean-fuel>

<sup>5563</sup> Promote an initiative to reduce greenhouse gases in the livestock sector in Salta, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/promueven-una-iniciativa-para-reducir-los-gases-de-efecto-invernadero-del-sector-ganadero>

<sup>5564</sup> Ambiente drew up the National Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 27 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-elaboro-el-plan-nacional-de-adaptacion-y-mitigacion-al-cambio-climatico>

<sup>5565</sup> The Minimum Climate Change Budget Law was formalized, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-oficializo-la-ley-de-presupuestos-minimos-de-cambio-climatico>

<sup>5566</sup> The Minimum Climate Change Budget Law was formalized, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 20 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-oficializo-la-ley-de-presupuestos-minimos-de-cambio-climatico>

<sup>5567</sup> Technical meeting in Germany against desertification, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-proteccion-de-la-vida-silvestre-amenazada-como-politica-transversal>

integrated management of coastal areas; national parks and protected areas; sustainable consumption and production; sustainable development and innovation; sustainable soil and forest management; conservation and protection of biodiversity; integral management of social waste; rational management of chemicals and substances; control and supervision; environmental education and citizen participation [and] sustainable cities.<sup>5568</sup> The cooperation between the two nations will be materialized through the exchange, visits, technical support, and projects.<sup>5569</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development participated in the institutional workshop of “Incorporation of biodiversity conservation criteria in sectoral and intersectoral public policies and programs to safeguard the wildlife threatened in Argentina,” a project of the United Nations Development Programme.<sup>5570</sup> The project is to promote balanced development with the conservation of threatened wildlife species. The workshop aimed to reach the consensus with various provincial and national actors about the lines of work that should be done for the project.<sup>5571</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Security, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture and Foreign Ministry relaunched the initiative Pampa Azul.<sup>5572</sup> Pampa Azul is a public policy promoting scientific research, technological development and productive innovation in the South Atlantic. Minister of the Environment and Sustainable Development Juan Cabandie stressed the importance of preserving marine biodiversity and ecosystems, and making maritime resources sustainable within this framework.<sup>5573</sup> With various committees and research institutes, Pampa Azul is expected to bring social awareness of the services and benefits provided by the sea.<sup>5574</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of the Nation announced it will deliver air quality sensors to the Municipality of Cordoba, and held a meeting to advance the implementation of a citizen participation project to measure and monitor air quality in

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<sup>5568</sup> Water Management: Cabandie received his Portuguese counterpart Joao Pedro Matos Fernandes, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gestion-del-agua-cabandie-recibio-su-par-portugues-joao-pedro-matos-fernandes>

<sup>5569</sup> Water Management: Cabandie received his Portuguese counterpart Joao Pedro Matos Fernandes, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/gestion-del-agua-cabandie-recibio-su-par-portugues-joao-pedro-matos-fernandes>

<sup>5570</sup> Protection of threatened wildlife as a cross-cutting policy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-proteccion-de-la-vida-silvestre-amenazada-como-politica-transversal>

<sup>5571</sup> Protection of threatened wildlife as a cross-cutting policy, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/la-proteccion-de-la-vida-silvestre-amenazada-como-politica-transversal>

<sup>5572</sup> The national government relaunched Pampa Azul, a strategic initiative for the South Atlantic, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-relanzo-pampa-azul-una-iniciativa-estrategica-para-el-atlantico-sur>

<sup>5573</sup> The national government relaunched Pampa Azul, a strategic initiative for the South Atlantic, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-relanzo-pampa-azul-una-iniciativa-estrategica-para-el-atlantico-sur>

<sup>5574</sup> The national government relaunched Pampa Azul, a strategic initiative for the South Atlantic, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 April 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/el-gobierno-nacional-relanzo-pampa-azul-una-iniciativa-estrategica-para-el-atlantico-sur>

the city.<sup>5575</sup> The project seeks to raise awareness in the population about the importance of knowing air quality of urban centres.<sup>5576</sup>

On 5 October 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development came to an agreement with the Amaicha del Valle community to assist in restoration projects.<sup>5577</sup> The “Reforestation of the native forest in Encalilla” project will target degraded areas and aim to restore them via drip irrigation systems.<sup>5578</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development met outline plans for the initial phase of the International Climate Initiative.<sup>5579</sup> It is a five year, EUR 15 million initiative, sponsored by Germany, that will aim to address numerous areas of climate change.<sup>5580</sup> These areas include “forests and landscape restoration; resource efficiency, sustainable mobility; and climate governance, cooperation and sustainable finance” within 60 developing countries.<sup>5581</sup>

Argentina has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its focus on hydrogen as a pollution-free energy source, EuroCLIMATE Program and collaboration with Portugal and Japan. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its Information and Early Warning System, its fire management aid Brazil and Bolivia, and its National Plan for Adaptation and Mitigation of Climate Change.

Thus, Argentina receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eunbi Lee*

#### **Australia: +1**

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

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<sup>5575</sup> Ambiente announced the delivery of air quality sensors to the Municipality of Cordoba, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2020. Access Dates: 28 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-anuncio-la-entrega-de-sensores-de-calidad-de-aire-la-municipalidad-de-cordoba>

<sup>5576</sup> Ambiente announced the delivery of air quality sensors to the Municipality of Cordoba, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 17 September 2020. Access Dates: 28 September 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-anuncio-la-entrega-de-sensores-de-calidad-de-aire-la-municipalidad-de-cordoba>

<sup>5577</sup> Environment promotes the reforestation of the native forest in Encalilla, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 5 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/ambiente-promueve-la-reforestacion-del-bosque-nativo-en-encalilla>

<sup>5578</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

<sup>5579</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

<sup>5580</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

<sup>5581</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

On 30 June 2019, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) committed a budget of approximately AUD1.44 billion for renewable energy initiatives, with the purpose of promoting clean energy technologies that can remain competitive in supply markets. Up to AUD110 million of the budget will be made available to accelerate and secure the delivery of a new solar thermal power generation facility in Port Augusta.<sup>5582</sup>

On 7 August 2019, Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management David Littleproud hosted the third Drought Roundtable on how to deal with future droughts. Littleproud stated that they will “move towards resilience rather than reliance, leveraging the AUD5 billion Future Drought Fund.”<sup>5583</sup>

On 17 September 2019, Minister Littleproud announced the creation of the Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee. Starting at AUD3.9 billion, the government will be adding onto it until it reaches AUD5 billion. The committee will seek to develop mechanisms for drought-vulnerable communities to “plan and prepare for drought and sustain their livelihoods and communities.” The project will be spearheaded by individuals with backgrounds in “agricultural economics, managing climate risk, rural and regional development and natural resource management.”<sup>5584</sup>

On 3 October 2019, Minister Littleproud released the AUD2.7 million Regional Weather and Climate Guide for farmers. As part of the government’s Drought Assistance Package, it aims at guiding farmers on how to cope with climate risks and opportunities such as “rainfall and temperature trends, frost risk, when to expect the wet season, and the nature of local droughts, floods and heatwaves.”<sup>5585</sup>

On 10 October 2019, Australia launched a joint initiative of the Green Building Council of Australia and the Property Council of Australia to establish governance reports intended to “galvanise action in Australia’s buildings, which are currently responsible for almost a quarter of our national carbon emissions and half of our electricity use.” The program currently funds research and development initiatives, as well as green energy initiatives in the public sphere that foster compliance and monitoring of energy and waste regulations.<sup>5586</sup>

On 17 October 2019, the government’s Education Investment Fund announced the new phase of their low-impact carbon dioxide drilling plant. The government has invested AUD25 million into the Otway Geological Storage and Monitoring Demonstration Project, which has developed new carbon secure storage technology designed to capture carbon dioxide from high content natural gas wells using novel membrane and adsorbent materials. The project works to reduce the investment cost of

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<sup>5582</sup> Clean Energy and the Electricity Market, Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources (Canberra) November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.energy.gov.au/government-priorities/energy-supply/clean-energy-and-the-electricity-market>

<sup>5583</sup> Taking the sting out of future droughts, Department of Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 2 April 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/taking-sting-out-of-future-droughts>

<sup>5584</sup> Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee, Department of Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management (Canberra) 17 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/future-drought-fund-consultative-committee>

<sup>5585</sup> Climate guides help farmers weather the risk, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/climate-guides-farmers-weather-risks>

<sup>5586</sup> Industry’s practical plan to lower emissions and deliver practical savings, Greenbuilding Plan Australia (Canberra) 29 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://new.gbca.org.au/news/gbca-news/making-every-building-count-industrys-practical-plan-lower-emissions-and-deliver-practical-savi/>

capturing methane during the process of natural gas extraction, reducing the financial barriers for companies that wish to repurpose the methane produced throughout their industrial activities.<sup>5587,5588</sup>

On 18 November 2019, United States Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Francis Fannon and Australian Ambassador Joe Hockey signed a memorandum of understanding on energy mineral resources. The goals are to: “1) promote responsible and sustainable mining practices in the energy mineral sector, 2) support resilient supply chains of energy minerals by facilitating trade and industry connectivity, 3) establish measures to meet expected demand for clean energy technologies.”<sup>5589</sup>

On 19 November 2019, the Minerals Council of Australia announced AUD150 million of funding designated towards a new iteration of their Carbon Capture Plant. Coal 21 has developed full-scale abatement in underground mines, capturing ventilation air flow in order to abate the production of methane. As it stands, the project aims to consolidate the abatement of 98 per cent of the methane produced in developing coal mines with the use of Chemical Looping technology. Since March 2019, it has successfully established small-scale operations that utilized the methane consumed in coal production in order to repurpose its energy usage.<sup>5590,5591</sup>

On 22 November 2019, the government committed AUD995.2 million to current phases of the CarbonNet Project, which aims to cover multiple sources of carbon dioxide captured from industrial plants and power stations in the province of Victoria. The carbon dioxide will be transported via pipelines offshore into deep sub-sea formations, reducing Australia’s net carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere, and securing energy storage mechanisms.<sup>5592</sup>

On 23 January 2020, ARENA initiated the development of its East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility, designed to process up to 330,000 tonnes of residual waste per annum, thus recovering enough energy to produce an estimated 28.9 MW of power. It will also filter over 30,000 tonnes of bio-solids from the Perth metropolitan area every year, and produce around 12,000 tonnes of flue gas treatment residuals. Developed by ARENA in conjunction with the New Energy Corporation, Hitachi Zosen Inova Australia and Tribe Infrastructure Group, the project to establish a large-scale Energy from Waste facility will be the second of its kind to be opened in Australia.<sup>5593</sup>

On 12 February 2020, Australia launched its Renewable Energy for Process Heat Opportunity Study, with the aim of accelerating the adoption of renewable energy in industrial and commercial process heating. The project will involve integrating renewable energy technologies into existing industrial and commercial heating processes, with a focus on agriculture, dairy, food and beverage

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<sup>5587</sup> Drilling Complete as Part of Research to Develop Low Cost, Low Impact CO2 Monitoring, CO2CRC (Canberra) 18 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.co2crc.com.au/drilling-complete-part-research-develop-low-cost-low-impact-co2-monitoring/>

<sup>5588</sup> \$100m Otway Research Facility, CO2CRC (Canberra) September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://www.co2crc.com.au/otway-research-facility-2/>

<sup>5589</sup> United States and Australia Sign MoU on Critical Energy Minerals, US Department of State (Washington) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-australia-sign-mou-on-critical-energy-minerals/>

<sup>5590</sup> Centennial Coal: Methane Reduction Demonstration, COAL21 (Canberra) 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://coal21.com/projects/current/centennial-coal-methane-reduction-demonstration/>

<sup>5591</sup> COAL21 Announces Funding for Australia’s first Carbon Capture Hub, COAL21 (Canberra) 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://coal21.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/191119COAL21-Announces-Funding-for-Australia%E2%80%99s-first-Carbon-Capture-Hub.pdf>

<sup>5592</sup> Carbon Capture Storage Flagships, Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources (Canberra) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/funding-and-incentives/carbon-capture-storage-flagships>

<sup>5593</sup> East Rockingham Resource Recovery Facility, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/projects/east-rockingham-resource-recovery-facility/>

manufacturing, and industrial production of textiles/leather. The initiative also aims to provide non-thermal technologies such as induction, mechanical vapour recompression, and solar energy.<sup>5594</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Minister Littleproud announced how it would use its AUD3.9 billion Drought Resilience Funding Plan. It would prioritize both resilience and preparedness while simultaneously bolstering production and profits. Additionally, the government will reinvest another AUD100 million a year until it reaches AUD5 billion.<sup>5595</sup>

On 25 February 2020, Minister Littleproud stated Australia will be investing over AUD2.9 million in new technology as part of the Smart Farming Partnerships Program. This program is designed to “help protect fragile ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef, Murray-Darling and coastal lake systems.”<sup>5596</sup>

On 26 February 2020, Australia announced the new construction team responsible for expanding the Snowy Mountains Project, which was devised with the intent to provide additional hydro-electric power generation and storage capacity, and “support for the development of a second electricity transmission interconnector between Tasmania and the mainland.”<sup>5597</sup> The plans will provide the single biggest renewable energy source in Southern Australia’s power grid, and include the assembly of thermal energy structures in order to mitigate the dam’s environmental impacts.<sup>5598</sup> The new designed consortium is tasked with building the project known as Snowy 2.0, which will expand its energy intake to 2,000 megawatts, connecting two existing water reservoirs in Kosciuszko National Park.<sup>5599</sup>

On 6 March 2020, the Province of Tasmania announced its plan to build a powerplant devised towards the use of hydrogen within the production of energy, establishing a future path for renewable energy in Tasmania. In addition, the Tasmanian government also declared its intention of establishing fast-charging equipment for electric vehicles at 12 new sites by the end of 2020. As part of its commitment, the Tasmanian government pledged over AUD50 million in funding, subsidized power, concessional loans, and tax breaks for future green hydrogen developments in the province.<sup>5600</sup>

On 11 March 2020, Australia initiated the construction of Energy Freedom Solar Electric Vehicle Pilot, which draws AUD2 million of its total AUD7.65 million budget from federal funding. The project is developed in conjunction with the private sector, with the help of the Applied Electric

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<sup>5594</sup> Renewable Energy for Process Heat Opportunity Study, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/projects/renewable-energy-for-process-heat-opportunity-study-phase-2/>

<sup>5595</sup> Putting the Future Drought Fund to work, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/future-drought-fund>

<sup>5596</sup> Millions for environmental innovation in horticulture, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 25 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://minister.awe.gov.au/littleproud/media-releases/smart-farming-environmental-hort>

<sup>5597</sup> Climate Solutions Package, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/Australian%20climate%20change%20policies%20-%20stocktake.pdf>

<sup>5598</sup> Climate Solutions Package, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Canberra) 5 March 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/Australian%20climate%20change%20policies%20-%20stocktake.pdf>

<sup>5599</sup> World-Class Designers Chosen for Snowy 2.0, Tractebel (Canberra) 26 February 2020. Access date: 23 March 2020. <https://tractebel-engie.com/en/news/2020/world-class-designers-chosen-for-snowy-2-0>

<sup>5600</sup> Inside the Liberal State Stepping into a Low-Emissions Future, The Guardian (London) 6 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/mar/07/inside-the-liberal-state-stepping-into-a-low-emissions-future>

Vehicles Pty Ltd. It aims to produce an energy efficient, autonomous electric vehicle that will incorporate a solar photovoltaic roof and lithium-ion battery system into its technology.<sup>5601</sup>

On 18 March 2020, ARENA renewed its commitment to support renewable energy initiatives, announcing new power plants for hydrogen-based energy production. Researchers have produced a National Hydrogen Roadmap, establishing its efforts towards a renewable hydrogen industry that reduces emissions in high-temperature sectors, especially in the transport sphere. ARENA's National Hydrogen Roadmap also entails an executive report, where Australia's energy ministers voiced their intentions to increase public funding for Australia's research and development sector in the roadmap, which currently stands at AUD22.1 million.<sup>5602</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Australia communicated the take-off of its Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project. It is a joint project between the governments of Australia and Japan, and has been devised in order to provide a secure and clean source of energy by improving systems that convert synthetic gas, in the form of carbon monoxide, into hydrogen.<sup>5603</sup> Although still in its initial stages, the project has already presented over AUD70 million in public funding towards its aim to establish renewable hydrogen into a residential gas grid.<sup>5604</sup>

On 19 March 2020, Australia launched the Yara Pilbara Renewable Ammonia Feasibility Study. This initiative consists of a research project towards large-scale renewable hydrogen and renewable ammonia production, and the government officials announced that it is officially taking place at a facility on the Burrup Peninsula, Western Australia. The renewable hydrogen produced will displace 30,000 tonnes per year of hydrogen, that would otherwise have been produced using fossil fuels. Yara's objective is to provide blended hydrogen, which will subsequently be converted to ammonia and sold for further processing by electrolyzers.<sup>5605</sup>

On 20 March 2020, ARENA began phase 1 of the construction of its new Solar Power Plant. The project entails a budget of over AUD6 million for the year of 2020, with the aim of developing utility-scale solar and storage technology. Upon its finalization, the new plant is expected to provide low-cost, long-duration storage option for Australian consumers. In addition, the plant will be able to store a total of 50 MW every 17 hours, providing an alternative source to coal and gas-fired power stations.<sup>5606</sup>

On 24 March 2020, the government introduced new projects endowed with public funding from its Emission's Reduction Fund.<sup>5607</sup> The government is supplying over AUD2 billion in funding for the Australian government's Emissions Reduction Fund over the next 10 years, which is projected to

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<sup>5601</sup> Energy Freedom Solar Electric Vehicle Pilot, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 11 March 2020.

Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/projects/energy-freedom-solar-electric-vehicle-pilot/>

<sup>5602</sup> Hydrogen Energy, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020.

<https://arena.gov.au/renewable-energy/hydrogen/>

<sup>5603</sup> Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Pilot Project, Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources (Canberra) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/funding-and-incentives/hydrogen-energy-supply-chain-pilot-project>

<sup>5604</sup> Australia's renewable hydrogen industry prepares for take off, ArenaWire (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/blog/australias-renewable-hydrogen-industry-prepares-for-take-off/>

<sup>5605</sup> Yara Pilbara Renewable Ammonia Feasibility Study, Energy Freedom Solar Electric Vehicle Pilot, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/projects/yara-pilbara-renewable-ammonia-feasibility-study/>

<sup>5606</sup> Solar Power Plant Phase 1, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Canberra) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/projects/solar-power-plant-phase-1/>

<sup>5607</sup> Emissions Reduction Fund Project Register, Australian Government Clean Energy Regulator (Canberra) 24 March 2020. Access Date: 24 March 2020. <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/project-and-contracts-registers/project-register/project-register-changes-since-last-update>

contribute an additional 103 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent reductions by 2030. The government's Emissions Reduction Fund allows organizations and individuals to register projects to reduce their emissions, and registers initiatives within the fields of agriculture, land, energy, transportation, industry, and waste sectors.<sup>5608</sup>

On 16 April 2020, Australia launched the first round of applications for its AUD70 million Renewable Hydrogen Deployment Funding, with the aim of fast-tracking the country's development of renewable energy, and energy and supporting large-scale projects with a minimum of 5MW capacity, up to 10MW projects or more.<sup>5609</sup>

On 29 April 2020, the Arrowsmith Hydrogen Project secured AUD300 million in funding to construct a wind and solar energy facility in Dongara, including a AUD70 million federal grant by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency.<sup>5610</sup> The project is expected to produce over 25 tonnes of green hydrogen per day.<sup>5611</sup>

On 3 June 2020, Minister for Resources Jaelyn Symes announces an additional AUD600,000 will be granted to Australian Carbon Innovation to continue its low-emissions projects using the Latrobe Valley's brown-coal resources, including clean hydrogen, carbon fibres, graphenes and fertilizers.<sup>5612</sup> The Statement on Future Uses of Brown Coal "sets the parameters around the use of coal" to ensure that the province's brown coal resources are only used in low-emission product development.<sup>5613</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative's member states (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) announced USD4.8 million for "the delivery of early warning systems and services" to the Pacific region. The objective of these systems and services was to protect residents from severe weather.<sup>5614</sup> These systems and services are intended to allow for proactivity by making forecasting possible.<sup>5615</sup>

On 29 July 2020, Karen Andrews, Australia's Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, assigned major project status to the Australian-ASEAN Power Link (AAPL), a AUD22 billion plan

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<sup>5608</sup> Australia's Climate Change Policies at the Australian and Territory Government Levels: a Stocktake, Climate Change Authority (Canberra) March 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://climatechangeauthority.gov.au/sites/prod.climatechangeauthority.gov.au/files/Australian%20climate%20change%20policies%20-%20stocktake.pdf>

<sup>5609</sup> ARENA launches \$70 million hydrogen funding round, PV Magazine Australia (Sydney) 16 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.pv-magazine-australia.com/2020/04/16/arena-launches-70-million-hydrogen-funding-round/>

<sup>5610</sup> Massive hydrogen project gets green light after securing \$300m investment, Renew Economy (Sydney) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/massive-hydrogen-project-gets-green-light-after-securing-300m-investment-68959/>

<sup>5611</sup> Massive hydrogen project gets green light after securing \$300m investment, Renew Economy (Sydney) 29 April 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://reneweconomy.com.au/massive-hydrogen-project-gets-green-light-after-securing-300m-investment-68959/>

<sup>5612</sup> Vic gov to back R&D for future low emission technologies, Prime Creative Media (Melbourne) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.manmonthly.com.au/news/vic-gov-back-rd-future-low-emission-technologies/>

<sup>5613</sup> Vic gov to back R&D for future low emission technologies, Prime Creative Media (Melbourne) 3 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020.

<https://www.manmonthly.com.au/news/vic-gov-back-rd-future-low-emission-technologies/>

<sup>5614</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5615</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>



to build the world's largest current solar farm in Australia's Northern Territory, and to share the electricity produced with Singapore.<sup>5616</sup> Utilizing a 3.700 kilometre-long undersea cable, it is estimated that it will supply 20 per cent of Singapore's energy demand.<sup>5617</sup>

On 6 August 2020, Australia's Ministry of Energy and Emissions Reduction announced AUD187 million of government funding towards 6,700,000 small-scale clean energy investments in the agribusiness, property and transportation sectors.<sup>5618</sup> Australia's Minister Angus Taylor characterized the move as a greater effort to employ Australian technology towards reducing emissions without imposing added costs on households or Australian taxpayers.<sup>5619</sup>

On 27 August 2020, the Australian Parliament introduced the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment Bill.<sup>5620</sup> If enacted, the bill will establish a Grid Reliability Fund with over AUD1 billion, under the Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act.<sup>5621</sup> The bill aims to expand federal funds available for clean energy investment in Australia and encourage energy storage projects in electricity generation, transmission and distribution and grid stabilization technology.<sup>5622</sup>

Australia has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emission through its investment in renewables and green energy, its CarbonNet Project and its investment in technology for carbon capture and sequestration. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its investment in the Future Drought Fund, Regional Weather and Climate Guide for Farmers and Smart Farming Partnerships Program.

Thus, Australia receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Lucy Faria*

### **Brazil: +1**

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

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<sup>5616</sup> Australia backs plan for world's biggest solar farm to power Singapore, Global Construction News (London) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/australia-backs-plan-worlds-biggest-solar-farm-pow/>

<sup>5617</sup> Australia backs plan for world's biggest solar farm to power Singapore, Global Construction News (London) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.globalconstructionreview.com/news/australia-backs-plan-worlds-biggest-solar-farm-pow/>

<sup>5618</sup> Government support for Australia's energy future, Australian Ministry for Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.miragenews.com/government-support-for-australia-s-energy-future/>

<sup>5619</sup> Government support for Australia's energy future, Australian Ministry for Energy and Emissions Reduction (Canberra) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.miragenews.com/government-support-for-australia-s-energy-future/>

<sup>5620</sup> Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;page=0;query=BillId:r6581%20Recstruct:billhome>

<sup>5621</sup> Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;page=0;query=BillId:r6581%20Recstruct:billhome>

<sup>5622</sup> Clean Energy Finance Corporation Amendment (Grid Reliability Fund) Bill 2020, Parliament of Australia (Canberra) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;page=0;query=BillId:r6581%20Recstruct:billhome>

On 2 September 2019, the Ministry of Infrastructure plans to hold their annual socio-economic seminar on Transport Infrastructure called Via Viva. The seminar features government representatives, international organizations, the Public Ministry, the Judiciary, and members of academia. The annual seminar is a forum to discuss current best practices, ways to innovate and create new technologies, and economic and policy reforms to maximize climate action in Brazil.<sup>5623</sup>

On 16 September 2019, on the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, the Ministry of the Environment released its objectives to protect the ozone layer, particularly the targets of the Brazilian HCFC Elimination Program. The program intends to adopt a series of strategies to encourage consumers of Ozone-Depleting Substances to adopt more sustainable practices. The Ministry released that Brazil is on track to reach its 2020 target of reducing the consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs), one of the primary substances responsible for the elimination of the ozone layer. Brazil has already achieved a decrease of 37.75 per cent of HCFCs, which is just below the 39 per cent target for 2020; and 501.04 tonnes of ozone destruction potential was reduced, and this path forecasts complete elimination of HCFCs by 2040.<sup>5624</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the Ministry of the Environment announced that Brazil is on track to achieve CO<sub>2</sub> emissions target for 2020. The projection was published by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in the Applied Economic Institute. Brazil's objective is to emit 1,977 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and the study concluded that it is a feasible target if there are no unforeseen amendments to national policy.<sup>5625</sup>

On 26 October 2019, Brazil attended the 29th BASIC meeting in Beijing, with delegates from China, South Africa and India. In preparation for 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, they acknowledged climate change and “confirmed their commitments to multilateralism in order to address the issue and to foster climate resilience and promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction.”<sup>5626</sup> They also emphasized their commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and support of other developing countries in doing so as well as they are the most vulnerable to climate change repercussions.<sup>5627</sup> Additionally, the BASIC group encouraged funding to the Green Climate Fund to support developing countries as they adapt.<sup>5628</sup> The Green Climate Fund sets out to “help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change.”<sup>5629</sup>

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<sup>5623</sup> Via Viva, Socio-Environmental Seminar on Transport Infrastructure, Via Viva 2019 (Brasilia) 25 March 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019. <http://viaviva.infraestrutura.gov.br/sobre-o-evento/>

<sup>5624</sup> Actions To Protect Ozone, Ministry of Environment (Brasilia) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019. <https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15617-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-para-proteger-o-oz%C3%B4nio.html>

<sup>5625</sup> Brazil Close to Meeting CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction Target in 2020, Ministry of Environment (Brasilia) 21 October 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019. <https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15650-brasil-perto-de-cumprir-meta-de-redu%C3%A7%C3%A3o-de-co2-em-2020.html>

<sup>5626</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5627</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5628</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5629</sup> About GCF, Green Climate Fund (Songdo). Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/contact>

On 20 November 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and the governors of the nine states that compose the Legal Amazon deliberated measures to encourage regional sustainable development and prevent environmental crimes. The primary pillars of the national plan include land regularization, ecological-economic zoning, payment for environmental services, creation of a bioeconomy, and criminalization of illegal deforestation.<sup>5630</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister of the Environment Ricardo Salles spoke at the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, states that the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement is an imperative step for developed countries to demonstrate its commitment to developing countries. Article 6 calls for “market mechanisms that support the implementation of carbon emission cut commitments.”<sup>5631</sup>

On 21 January 2020, the Minister of the Environment affirmed that the Council of the Amazon will be collaborating with the Secretariat of the Amazon to develop sustainable development policies for the region.<sup>5632</sup>

On 4 June 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced that they would be investing BRL500 million to the Floresta+ program, that would compensate those who take on conservation and recovery initiatives for the environment.<sup>5633</sup> Initiatives can include “fencing, surveillance, firefighting, soil protection, monitoring, biodiversity research, planting native species, agroforestry activities, and integrated crop-livestock activity.”<sup>5634</sup>

On 6 July 2020, the Minister of the Environment, Ricardo Salles, agreed to a collaboration with Vale to invest in national parks, combatting, promotion sanitation, urban green areas and zero waste for BRL250 million.<sup>5635</sup> Additionally, an investment of BRL1.5 million will be allocated for combatting desertification and soil degradation, and recovery of unproductive areas and the preservation of other areas.<sup>5636</sup>

On 4 August 2020, the Ministry of the Environment granted BRL350 million to the National Bank for Economic and Social Development specifically for projects contributing to the improvement of

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<sup>5630</sup> Ministry of Environment and Governors of the Legal Amazon Launch Pact for Result Environmentalism, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019.

<https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15661-minist%C3%A9rio-do-meio-ambiente-e-governadores-da-amaz%C3%B4nia-legal-lan%C3%A7am-pacto-pelo-ambientalismo-de-resultado.html>

<sup>5631</sup> Salles Demands Implementation of the Paris Agreement at CoP 25, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2019. <https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15668-salles-cobra-implementa%C3%A7%C3%A3o-do-acordo-de-paris-na-cop-25.html>

<sup>5632</sup> Amazon Council and Amazon Secretariat to Work Together, says Environment, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 22 January 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2019. <https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15685-conselho-da-amaz%C3%B4nia-e-secretaria-da-amaz%C3%B4nia-ir%C3%A3o-trabalhar-juntos,-diz-ministro-do-meio-ambiente.html>

<sup>5633</sup> MMA launches the world’s largest program to boost compensation for those who protect forests, Ministry of Environment (Brasilia) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15758-mma-lan%C3%A7a-maior-programa-do-mundo-para-impulsionar-remunera%C3%A7%C3%A3o-de-quem-protege-as-florestas.html>

<sup>5634</sup> MMA launches the world’s largest program to boost compensation for those who protect forests, Ministry of Environment (Brasilia) 4 June 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15758-mma-lan%C3%A7a-maior-programa-do-mundo-para-impulsionar-remunera%C3%A7%C3%A3o-de-quem-protege-as-florestas.html>

<sup>5635</sup> MMA closes agreement with Vale and allocates R \$250 million to environmental actions in MG, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15796-mma-fecha-acordo-com-a-vale-e-destina-r\\$-250-milh%C3%B5es-para-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-ambientais-em-mg.html](https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15796-mma-fecha-acordo-com-a-vale-e-destina-r$-250-milh%C3%B5es-para-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-ambientais-em-mg.html)

<sup>5636</sup> MMA closes agreement with Vale and allocates R \$250 million to environmental actions in MG, Ministry of the Environment (Brasilia) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15796-mma-fecha-acordo-com-a-vale-e-destina-r\\$-250-milh%C3%B5es-para-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-ambientais-em-mg.html](https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15796-mma-fecha-acordo-com-a-vale-e-destina-r$-250-milh%C3%B5es-para-a%C3%A7%C3%B5es-ambientais-em-mg.html)

environmental quality including solid waste management, sanitation works, air and water quality. Projects that can be selected must pertain to “the implementation of projects, the acquisition of machinery and equipment and technological development related to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate changes and their effects.”<sup>5637</sup> The investment from the ministry aims to improve sanitary conditions and overall living standards for urban cities in Brazil.<sup>5638</sup>

Brazil has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its Via Viva Seminar, Brazilian HCFC Elimination program, and is on track to meet its carbon reduction goals for 2020. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its Amazon conservation efforts in the form of the Legal Amazon’s national plan and the Amazon Council collaboration, and as a member of the Green Climate Fund.

Thus, Brazil receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Margaret de Leon*

### **Canada: +1**

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 3 July 2019, the government of Canada through the Environmental Damages Fund awarded more than CAD2.4 million for 22 community-based environmental restoration projects in Alberta, British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Nunavut, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. The goal is to protect nature and ensure court-awarded penalties for environmental violations.<sup>5639</sup>

On 3 July 2019, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna announced up to CAD250,000 in funding through the government’s Climate Action Fund to Clean Air Partnership. The goal is to “engage residents in climate action and support healthy lifestyles by increasing opportunities for cycling in Markham with more bicycles, workshops, tools, and repair clinics.”<sup>5640</sup>

On 11 July 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD4.7 million to fund nine climate change research projects. The goal is to “advance the knowledge of the role forests play, accelerate

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<sup>5637</sup> MMA releases R\$350 million for projects aimed at improving urban environmental quality, Ministry of the Environment. (Brasilia) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15816-mma-libera-r\\$-350-milh%C3%B5es-para-projetos-que-visem-a-melhoria-da-qualidade-ambiental-urbana.html](https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15816-mma-libera-r$-350-milh%C3%B5es-para-projetos-que-visem-a-melhoria-da-qualidade-ambiental-urbana.html)

<sup>5638</sup> MMA releases R\$350 million for projects aimed at improving urban environmental quality, Ministry of the Environment. (Brasilia) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. [https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15816-mma-libera-r\\$-350-milh%C3%B5es-para-projetos-que-visem-a-melhoria-da-qualidade-ambiental-urbana.html](https://www.mma.gov.br/informma/item/15816-mma-libera-r$-350-milh%C3%B5es-para-projetos-que-visem-a-melhoria-da-qualidade-ambiental-urbana.html)

<sup>5639</sup> Canada supporting Canadian solutions to protect nature through 22 projects across the country, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Dartmouth) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-supporting-canadian-solutions-to-protect-nature-through-22-projects-across-the-country.html>

<sup>5640</sup> Canada supports climate education and awareness by Clean Air Partnership, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 3 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-supports-climate-education-and-awareness-by-clean-air-partnership.html>

innovation in energy-efficient cooling technologies, and improve the understanding of how carbon interacts with the forests, wetlands, and oceans.”<sup>5641</sup>

On 12 July 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD1.3 million in funding in support for climate action by the City of Winnipeg. The funding will: “1) expand the Brady Road Resource Management Facility landfill gas capture system, 2) expand Winnipeg’s collection system for polluting gas from landfills and upgrade existing wells, 3) reduce methane emissions.”<sup>5642</sup>

On 17 July 2019, the government announced it is investing CAD6.4 million in 22 First Nations–led projects through the Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program. The projects will enable First Nations to take action to protect clean air and clean water, fight climate change, and protect a healthy environment for all.<sup>5643</sup>

On 24 July 2019, Minister of Transport Marc Garneau announced that the government is renewing the Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan for another 15 years and investing CAD1.16 billion from 2020 to 2024. The goal is to continue to “remediate contaminated sites — improving the health of the environment, fueling economic growth, and creating jobs.”<sup>5644</sup>

On 26 July 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD200,000 in funding through the federal government’s Climate Action Fund to Inlinniapaa Skills Development Centre. This funding will help “increase awareness about climate change in Nunavut by educating Inuit youth, students, and businesses. iSDC will share information on how people can reduce their energy consumption, provide tips on energy conservation, and talk about how we can all take climate action in our lives.”<sup>5645</sup>

On 7 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD1.06 million in funding over three years for ten projects to restore and protect the Great Lakes. The projects will address issues such as toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie and restoring aquatic habitat in the bays and coastal wetlands of Toronto’s Tommy Thompson Park.<sup>5646</sup>

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<sup>5641</sup> Canada is investing in important climate change research, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Victoria) 11 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-is-investing-in-important-climate-change-research.html>

<sup>5642</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the City of Winnipeg, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-city-of-winnipeg.html>

<sup>5643</sup> Canada invests \$6.4 million to support First Nations leadership in conservation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 17 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-invests-64-million-to-support-first-nations-leadership-in-conservation.html>

<sup>5644</sup> Government of Canada invests \$1.16 billion to continue cleaning up contaminated sites, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Victoria) 24 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/government-of-canada-invests-116-billion-to-continue-cleaning-up-contaminated-sites.html>

<sup>5645</sup> Canada invests in climate education and awareness in Nunavut, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Iqaluit) 26 July 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/07/canada-invests-in-climate-education-and-awareness-in-nunavut.html>

<sup>5646</sup> Government of Canada invests to restore and protect Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Hamilton/Burlington) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-invests-to-restore-and-protect-great-lakes.html>

On 7 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced up to CAD125,000 in funding through the Climate Action Fund to the International Institute for Sustainable Development. The funding will help Manitoba companies identify and capitalize on low-carbon business opportunities.<sup>5647</sup>

On 7 August 2019, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Women and Gender Equality Terry Duguid announced up to CAD35,000 for the Winnipeg-based Green Action Centre. The funding to help schools and Indigenous communities in Manitoba educate on food waste can help fight climate change and reduce carbon emissions.<sup>5648</sup>

On 9 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced an investment of up to CAD600,000 under the Innovative Solutions Canada Program for four new projects. The goal of these projects is to help businesses to come up with new ideas to solve problems regarding sustainability in the agricultural sector to secure a strong economy in light of extreme weather caused by climate change.<sup>5649</sup>

On 13 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced up to CAD10 million from the partnerships stream of the Low Carbon Economy Fund to support projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions for small and medium-sized businesses with up to 499 employees. The goal is to “help businesses across the country cut pollution through projects like retrofits, methane capture in municipal waste, switching to cleaner fuels and more efficient business operations, or greener ways to heat or cool existing buildings.”<sup>5650</sup>

On 14 August 2014, Minister McKenna announced the government is providing funding as part of the Canada Nature Fund to “protect important wildlife habitat, conserve and restore wetlands, and expand protected areas on Prince Edward Island.”<sup>5651</sup>

On 16 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced over CAD2.6 million over three years to support 34 new EcoAction Community Funding Program projects across Canada. The goal of these projects is to help protect and conserve Canada’s freshwater resources.<sup>5652</sup>

On 19 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced the first in a series of 67 conservation initiatives launching in every province and territory, as part of Canada’s Nature Legacy initiative. These projects

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<sup>5647</sup> Government of Canada supports climate education and awareness by International Institute for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 7 August 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supports-climate-education-and-awareness-by-international-institute-for-sustainable-development.html>

<sup>5648</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Green Action Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 7 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-green-action-centre.html>

<sup>5649</sup> Canada supports innovative solutions for agricultural and Environmental Challenges, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 9 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/canada-supports-innovative-solutions-for-agricultural-and-environmental-challenges.html>

<sup>5650</sup> Government of Canada supporting small and medium-sized businesses through the Low Carbon Economy Fund, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supporting-small-and-medium-sized-businesses-through-the-low-carbon-economy-fund.html>

<sup>5651</sup> The Government of Canada expands protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Charlottetown) 14 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/the-government-of-canada-expands-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>5652</sup> The Government of Canada supports community action to protect and conserve freshwater resources, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 16 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/the-government-of-canada-supports-community-action-to-protect-and-conserve-freshwater-resources.html>

are “supported by the CAD175 million federal Canada Nature Fund’s Target 1 Challenge, to expand a connected network of protected and conserved areas across Canada.”<sup>5653</sup> One use of the funds will be to grant CAD4.3 million to support 49 new conservation projects across Canada, over the next three years. The goal is to “protect priority places, species, and sectors and recovering multiple land-based species at risk and their ecosystems.”<sup>5654</sup> There will also be CAD7.6 million in funding granted to help the University of British Columbia with its biomass expansion project. The goal is to increase the University’s renewable energy capacity and meet the increasing demand of a growing campus while reducing emissions.<sup>5655</sup> Minister McKenna also announced CAD119,000 for Student Energy, through the federal Climate Action Fund. This funding will “help Student Energy develop a program to support jobs for young people in climate change fields.”<sup>5656</sup>

On 22 August 2019, Minister McKenna joined the Government of Yukon and First Nations partners to support the Peel Watershed Regional Land Use Plan, “which creates new protected and conserved areas to safeguard the watershed and the wildlife that call it home.” This will also help Canada double the amount of nature it is protecting.<sup>5657</sup>

On 27 August 2019, Minister McKenna announced the launch of the Energy Savings Rebate program to help make climate action affordable for Ontarians. Through this program, “a total of CAD200 million of support over two years will be provided to Ontario retailers to offer up to 25 per cent off the purchase price of specific energy-saving products. These products can help Ontarians reduce their energy use by up to 60 per cent more than using the standard models.”<sup>5658</sup>

On 3 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD2.4 million for Enterprise Indorama PTA Montreal SEC. The funds will be used for the installation of new equipment and clean technology to manage the safe recovery and reuse of organic compounds. The goal of this is to reduce carbon pollution.<sup>5659</sup> She also announced CAD80,000 to Nature Canada through the Climate Action Fund. The funds will be used to hold a national conference for Canada’s leading conservation agencies. The

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<sup>5653</sup> Canada’s \$175 million investment in nature kicks off conservation projects in every province and territory, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Victoria) 19 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/canadas-175-million-investment-in-nature-kicks-off-conservation-projects-in-every-province-and-territory.html>

<sup>5654</sup> Canada invests \$4.3 million in local conservation projects to protect species, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Victoria) 19 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/canada-invests-43-million-in-local-conservation-projects-to-protect-species-at-risk.html>

<sup>5655</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the University of British Columbia, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 19 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-university-of-british-columbia.html>

<sup>5656</sup> Canada supports climate-related jobs and training for students, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 19 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/canada-supports-climate-related-jobs-and-training-for-students.html>

<sup>5657</sup> Government of Canada supports Government of Yukon and First Nations in protecting nature in Peel watershed, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Mayo) 22 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/government-of-canada-supports-government-of-yukon-and-first-nations-in-protecting-nature-in-peel-watershed.html>

<sup>5658</sup> Canada announces new Energy Saving Rebate program to help Ontarians save money and fight climate change, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 27 August 2019. Date Accessed: 2 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/08/canada-announces-new-energy-savings-rebate-program-to-help-ontarians-save-money-and-fight-climate-change.html>

<sup>5659</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Enterprise Indorama PTA Montreal S.E.C., Environment and Climate Change Canada (Montreal) 3 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-entreprise-indorama-pta-montreal-sec.html>

goal is to discuss climate change and mitigate its effects by preserving nature and ecosystems.<sup>5660</sup> In addition, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathon Wilkinson announced CAD 50,000 for the Fraser Basin Council. The goal is to develop an interactive online platform for young Canadians to discuss climate change and how it has impacted them.<sup>5661</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD3 million in funding to Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc. The goal of the funds is to help the company transform organic waste into renewable energy and biofertilizer. This will help to improve air and water quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and improve soil quality.<sup>5662</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD14,339 for Carbon Conversation TO. The goal of the funds is to empower young people to create a dialogue about climate change and reduce their carbon footprint.<sup>5663</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced funds of CAD80,000 will be given to Climate Smart. This will be used to improve the company's carbon-mapping tool which they use to inform small and medium-sized businesses about their carbon footprint in New Brunswick. The goal is to help these businesses reduce their emissions and save money.<sup>5664</sup>

On 4 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced that the federal government would be investing CAD8 million in 52 projects across the country working towards species conservation. The aim is to achieve sustainable protection for at-risk species.<sup>5665</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change and Member of Parliament for Central Nova Sean Fraser announced that the federal government will be providing CAD14 million to the province of Nova Scotia. The goal of these funds is to protect and conserve nature and restore wetlands.<sup>5666</sup>

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<sup>5660</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Nature Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 3 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-nature-canada.html>

<sup>5661</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Fraser Basin Council, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Burnaby) 3 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-fraser-basin-council.html>

<sup>5662</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the Centre de Traitement de la Biomasse de la Montérégie Inc., Environment and Climate Change Canada (Saint-Pie) 4 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-centre-de-traitement-de-la-biomasse-de-la-monteregie-inc.html>

<sup>5663</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Carbon Conversation TO empowering young people to fight climate change, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 4 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-carbon-conversations-to-empowering-young-people-to-fight-climate-change.html>

<sup>5664</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Climate Smart, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 4 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-climate-smart.html>

<sup>5665</sup> Canada funds 52 new projects to protect and recover species at risk, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 4 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/canada-funds-52-new-projects-to-protect-and-recover-species-at-risk.html>

<sup>5666</sup> Canada makes investment in protecting nature across Nova Scotia, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Musquodoboit Harbour) 5 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/canada-makes-investment-in-protecting-nature-across-nova-scotia.html>



On 5 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD75,710 in funds to the Saskatchewan Environmental Society to develop the Saskatchewan Low Carbon Stories project. The objective is to help people in rural Saskatchewan share their low carbon business solutions.<sup>5667</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced funds of CAD140,000 will be given to the New Brunswick Environmental Network. The goal is to help teachers educate all Canadians about the realities of climate change, and climate resiliency, adaptation and sustainable living.<sup>5668</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced funds of CAD145,000 will be given to Vivre en Ville for its project Building with Climate Change. The goal of the project is to help developers “adopt good practices in emissions reduction and climate change adaptation and implement sustainable building projects.”<sup>5669</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced CAD100,000 will be granted to Envirocentre. The goal of the funds is to help the company develop the series “Let’s Talk Green Economy” for Ottawa businesses. This will help expand their awareness of climate change and how to take action.<sup>5670</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Crecy and Minister McKenna signed a memorandum of understanding to cooperate on environmental and climate issues. These issues include “fighting climate change, increasing environmental compliance and enforcement, improving chemicals and waste management, protecting biodiversity and enhancing conservation, and combating marine litter and plastics policy,” and utilizing technology for clean economic growth.<sup>5671</sup>

On 6 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced the federal government will provide CAD10 million over two years to the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The goal is to protect wetlands and migratory birds, especially those species that are at risk.<sup>5672</sup> She also announced CAD97,100 in funding for Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan. The aim is to “connect kids to the environment and foster awareness of sustainability and climate change.”<sup>5673</sup> In addition, CAD3

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<sup>5667</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Saskatchewan Environmental Society, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Saskatoon) 5 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-saskatchewan-environmental-society.html>

<sup>5668</sup> Government of Canada supports climate education by New Brunswick Environmental Network, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Moncton) 5 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-education-by-new-brunswick-environmental-network.html>

<sup>5669</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Vivre en Ville, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Quebec) 5 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-vivre-en-ville.html>

<sup>5670</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Envirocentre, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-envirocentre.html>

<sup>5671</sup> South Africa and Canada agree to cooperate on environmental protection and climate change, Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/southafricaandcanada\\_environmentalprotection\\_climatechange\\_memorandumofunderstanding](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/southafricaandcanada_environmentalprotection_climatechange_memorandumofunderstanding)

<sup>5672</sup> The Government of Canada invests to protect wetlands and migratory birds, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 6 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/the-government-of-canada-invests-to-protect-wetlands-and-migratory-birds.html>

<sup>5673</sup> Government of Canada supports climate education and awareness by Agriculture in the Classroom Saskatchewan, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Saskatoon) 6 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-education-and-awareness-by-agriculture-in-the-classroom-saskatchewan.html>

million in funding will be granted to Climate Smart. The goal of the funds will be to help four participating businesses reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and save energy.<sup>5674</sup>

On 7 September 2019, Member of Parliament for West Vancouver – Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky Country and Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs Pamela Goldsmith-Jones announced there would be CAD10,000 in funding granted to the Gibson Marine Education Centre. The goal of the funds is to educate Canadians using a blend of scientific and traditional knowledge about climate change and teach them how to build a healthier environment.<sup>5675</sup>

On 10 September 2019, Minister McKenna announced that the Government of Canada would be providing CAD4.7 million in funds to the Government of Nunavut to establish the Agguttinni Territorial Park. The creation of this park will conserve large sources of freshwater, cultural sites, and preserve habitat for endangered species.<sup>5676</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathon Wilkinson announced that the government would contribute CAD5 million to support the Partnership for Market Implementation at the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The aim is to help developing countries introduce carbon pricing tools.<sup>5677</sup>

On 17 December 2019, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD8.5 million in funds will be given to the University of Calgary to support energy-saving projects. The goal is to reduce energy consumption in buildings on campus.<sup>5678</sup>

On 18 December 2019, United States Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Francis Fannon and Canadian Associate Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Shawn Tupper signed a Memorandum of Understanding on energy mineral resources. The goals are to: “1) promote responsible and sustainable mining practices in the energy mineral sector, 2) support resilient supply chains of energy minerals by facilitating trade and industry connectivity, 3) establish measures to meet expected demand for clean energy technologies.”<sup>5679</sup>

On 20 December 2019, Minister Wilkinson announced that the Government of Canada “will launch a strategic assessment to provide guidance on how future new thermal coal mine projects will be

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<sup>5674</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by Climate Smart, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ajax) 6 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-climate-smart0.html>

<sup>5675</sup> Canada empowering young people to fight climate change through supports for Gibsons Marine Education Centre, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gibsons) 7 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/canada-empowering-young-people-to-fight-climate-change-through-support-for-gibsons-marine-education-centre.html>

<sup>5676</sup> Canada invests in conservation projects in Nunavut, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 10 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/09/canada-invests-in-conservation-projects-in-nunavut.html>

<sup>5677</sup> Canada announces support for new carbon-pricing initiative at COP25, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Madrid) 10 December 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-announces-support-for-new-carbon-pricing-initiative-at-cop25.html>

<sup>5678</sup> Government of Canada announces support for energy savings at University of Calgary, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Calgary) 17 December 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-energy-savings-at-university-of-calgary.html>

<sup>5679</sup> United States and Canada Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Critical Energy Minerals, US Department of State (Washington) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-canada-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-on-critical-energy-minerals/>

assessed under the Impact Assessment Act.”<sup>5680</sup> The goal of this is to help with the transition of phasing out traditional coal-fired power by 2030.<sup>5681</sup>

On 20 January 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that funds of CAD100,000 will be given to Assiniboine Park Conservancy and Eco-West Canada. The goal of Assiniboine Park Conservancy is to help young Canadians influence positive change on the environment. The goal of Eco-West Canada is to help small and medium-sized entrepreneurs create climate action and resiliency plans.<sup>5682</sup>

On 10 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced CAD200,000 will be provided to the Youth Climate Lab from the federal Climate Action Fund. The funding will be used to develop the FutureXChange program to engage young Canadians to create their own climate projects that employ Traditional Knowledge. These participants then spread across the country as Community Activators to help create local climate initiatives in their own communities and reach over 150,000 Canadians.<sup>5683</sup>

On 11 February 2020, Member of Parliament for Peterborough-Kawartha Maryam Monsef announced that up to CAD6 million will be granted from the federal government to the City of Peterborough to support their climate change initiatives. The funds will be used to develop new composting centres to limit the amount of organic waste in landfills and expand the current Green Bin program in the city.<sup>5684</sup>

On 18 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that the federal government will provide CAD250,000 to the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region. The funding will be used to hold a gathering to empower First Nations to take the lead in climate action in the Yukon territory. This will be done through encouraging youth leadership and exploring new solutions for energy usage throughout communities.<sup>5685</sup>

On 20 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson and Prince Edward Island’s Minister of Environment, Water and Climate Change Brad Trivers announced that CAD1.4 million in federal funding will be provided to the government of Prince Edward Island. The goal of this funding is to help the

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<sup>5680</sup> Canada launches strategic assessment of thermal coal mining, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 20 December 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-launches-strategic-assessment-of-thermal-coal-mining.html>

<sup>5681</sup> Canada launches strategic assessment of thermal coal mining, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 20 December 2019. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2019/12/canada-launches-strategic-assessment-of-thermal-coal-mining.html>

<sup>5682</sup> New Climate Action Funding Announced for Youth and Businesses in Manitoba, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 20 January 2020. Date Accessed: 3 February 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/01/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-youth-and-businesses-in-manitoba.html>

<sup>5683</sup> Government of Canada announces support for Youth Climate Lab, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 10 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-youth-climate-lab.html>

<sup>5684</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the City of Peterborough’s Climate Action Initiatives, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Peterborough) 11 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-peterboroughs-climate-action-initiatives.html>

<sup>5685</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the Assembly of First Nations Yukon Region, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Whitehorse) 18 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-assembly-of-first-nations-yukon-region.html>

province conserve 4400 hectares of vital habitat and protect existing conserved areas. It will also help protect endangered species in these protected areas.<sup>5686</sup>

On 21 February 2020, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu announced that the federal government will provide CAD100,000 to Science North from the Climate Action Fund. The goal of the funds is to teach indigenous students about climate change throughout the province of Ontario. This will be done through hands-on school projects and through events that teach them how to take action to confront climate change.<sup>5687</sup>

On 21 February 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that two conservation agreements between British Columbia and the West Moberly and Sauteau First Nations have been met. The agreements aim to recover the population of Southern Mountain Caribou in the region and protect the current numbers. The goal of the agreements is to reverse the damage due to industrialization (endangering the caribou population) and is a part of greater conservation efforts across Canada.<sup>5688</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Member of Parliament for Saint John-Rothesay Wayne Long announced that the City of Saint John in New Brunswick will receive up to CAD4 million in federal funding. The money will be used as an investment in the construction of new heating and cooling systems that rely on renewable, clean energy for a large commercial complex containing various buildings. The project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 760,000 tonnes. There will also be an additional CAD570,600 granted to replace 1,700 outdoor street lights with high-efficiency LED lights.<sup>5689</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Member of Parliament for Windsor-Tecumseh Irek Kusmierczyk announced that the government will be providing CAD125,000 to the University of Windsor. The funds will be used for law students to train youth on the legal policy aspects of “climate change mitigation.”<sup>5690</sup> The goal of this effort is to help people in Ontario implement climate change policies effectively in their cities.<sup>5691</sup>

On 4 March 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that the federal government will be granting CAD2.3 million to the Government of Yukon to support climate change initiatives. The funds are to

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<sup>5686</sup> The Government of Canada invests in protected areas in Prince Edward Island, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Charlottetown) 20 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/the-government-of-canada-invests-in-protected-areas-in-prince-edward-island.html>

<sup>5687</sup> New Climate Action Funding Announced for Science North, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Thunder Bay) 21 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-science-north.html>

<sup>5688</sup> New Conservation agreements signed to protect Southern Mountain Caribou in British Columbia, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 21 February 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/02/new-conservation-agreements-signed-to-protect-southern-mountain-caribou-in-british-columbia.html>

<sup>5689</sup> Government of Canada announces support for the City of Saint John and Saint John Energy’s Climate Change Initiatives, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Saint John) 4 March 2020. Date Accessed: 20 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-announces-support-for-the-city-of-saint-john-and-saint-john-energys-climate-change-initiatives.html>

<sup>5690</sup> New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Date Accessed: 17 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

<sup>5691</sup> New climate action funding announced for Windsor law students, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Windsor) 4 March 2020. Date Accessed: 17 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/new-climate-action-funding-announced-for-windsor-law-students.html>

be used to connect an already existing biomass heating system in the territory which will reduce emissions by 82 per cent.<sup>5692</sup>

On 6 March 2020, Minister Wilkinson and Manitoba's Minister of Conservation and Climate Sarah Guillemard began the application process for Manitoba's new Efficient Trucking Program. This program will help to reduce emissions in the province providing rebates for applicants of up to 50 per cent on fuel-saving technology (such as low rolling resistance tires).<sup>5693</sup>

On 5 June 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced plans for 60 new conservation projects across Canada.<sup>5694</sup> The goal of these projects is to preserve nature and protect biodiversity.<sup>5695</sup> These projects will also protect endangered species and improve the stability of ecosystems in Canada.<sup>5696</sup> These projects help to reduce vulnerability from climate change and recover ecosystems that have already been impacted, with an emphasis on Indigenous led projects and nature-based climate solutions.<sup>5697</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative's member states (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) announced USD4.8 million for "the delivery of early warning systems and services" to the Pacific region. The objective of these systems and services was to protect residents from severe weather.<sup>5698</sup> These systems and services are intended to allow for proactivity by making forecasting possible.<sup>5699</sup>

On 25 June 2020, Canada announced that it has partnered with Finland and the Netherlands to host three events to discuss the future of circular economies and fight climate change.<sup>5700</sup> The events, led by the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra, will explain the tools and solutions that all countries can use to

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<sup>5692</sup> Government of Canada supports climate action by the Government of Yukon, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Whitehorse) 4 March 2020. Date Accessed: 17 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/government-of-canada-supports-climate-action-by-the-government-of-yukon.html>

<sup>5693</sup> Canada and Manitoba launch application process for the Efficient Trucking Program, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Winnipeg) 6 March 2020. Date Accessed: 17 March 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/03/canada-and-manitoba-launch-application-process-for-the-efficient-trucking-program.html>

<sup>5694</sup> Canada marks World Environment Day by protecting nature from coast to coast to coast, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/canada-marks-world-environment-day-by-protecting-nature-from-coast-to-coast-to-coast.html>

<sup>5695</sup> Canada marks World Environment Day by protecting nature from coast to coast to coast, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/canada-marks-world-environment-day-by-protecting-nature-from-coast-to-coast-to-coast.html>

<sup>5696</sup> Canada marks World Environment Day by protecting nature from coast to coast to coast, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/canada-marks-world-environment-day-by-protecting-nature-from-coast-to-coast-to-coast.html>

<sup>5697</sup> Canada marks World Environment Day by protecting nature from coast to coast to coast, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 5 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/canada-marks-world-environment-day-by-protecting-nature-from-coast-to-coast-to-coast.html>

<sup>5698</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5699</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5700</sup> Finland, Canada, and the Netherlands join forces to advance their circular economy as key to a sustainable recovery, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 25 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/finland-canada-and-the-netherlands-join-forces-to-advance-the-circular-economy-as-key-to-a-sustainable-recovery.html>

address the issues of climate change on their own soil and enact policies that seek to reduce its effects.<sup>5701</sup> It also takes special consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to encourage countries to use economic shutdowns as an opportunity to implement more green policies rather than returning to “business as usual.”<sup>5702</sup>

On 7 August 2020, Minister Hajdu announced an investment of CAD175,000 from the federal government for water quality projects in the Thunder Bay region.<sup>5703</sup> These projects are aimed at improving the water quality of Lake Superior by focusing on water and soil sampling to determine which species are at risk due to climate change and pollution.<sup>5704</sup>

On 20 August 2020, the Minister of Northern Affairs Daniel Vandal announced that the federal government would be investing CAD18.3 million in the South Baffin Energy Management Project.<sup>5705</sup> The goal of this initiative is to improve energy efficiency and increase the availability of renewable energy in 45 buildings owned by the Government of Nunavut.<sup>5706</sup> Additionally, these efforts are to help encourage decreased emissions in the North and emphasize clean living habits.<sup>5707</sup>

On 21 August 2020, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Marco E.L. Mendicino announced federal funding of CAD1.1 million for the City of Toronto with the aim of reducing emissions from ambulances and emergency response vehicles.<sup>5708</sup> The funding will be used to equip

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<sup>5701</sup> Finland, Canada, and the Netherlands join forces to advance their circular economy as key to a sustainable recovery, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 25 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/finland-canada-and-the-netherlands-join-forces-to-advance-the-circular-economy-as-key-to-a-sustainable-recovery.html>

<sup>5702</sup> Finland, Canada, and the Netherlands join forces to advance their circular economy as key to a sustainable recovery, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 25 June 2020. Date Accessed: 18 July 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/06/finland-canada-and-the-netherlands-join-forces-to-advance-the-circular-economy-as-key-to-a-sustainable-recovery.html>

<sup>5703</sup> The Government of Canada announces funding for local projects to protect Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 7 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/the-government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-local-projects-to-protect-great-lakes.html>

<sup>5704</sup> The Government of Canada announces funding for local projects to protect Great Lakes, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Gatineau) 7 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/the-government-of-canada-announces-funding-for-local-projects-to-protect-great-lakes.html>

<sup>5705</sup> Government of Canada partners with Nunavut for renewable and energy-efficiency projects, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Iqaluit) 20 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects.html>

<sup>5706</sup> Government of Canada partners with Nunavut for renewable and energy-efficiency projects, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Iqaluit) 20 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects.html>

<sup>5707</sup> Government of Canada partners with Nunavut for renewable and energy-efficiency projects, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Iqaluit) 20 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-partners-with-nunavut-for-renewable-and-energy-efficiency-projects.html>

<sup>5708</sup> Government of Canada supports innovative climate action by the City of Toronto, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 21 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-climate-action-by-the-city-of-toronto.html>

215 ambulances and 60 response units with solar panel roofing to improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>5709</sup>

On 24 August 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced federal funding of CAD1.1 million to support energy-efficiency initiatives in Lumsden, Saskatchewan.<sup>5710</sup> The town will use this funding to install solar panels on municipal buildings, an effort to help them reach the goal of 100 per cent net-zero-emissions.<sup>5711</sup>

On 25 August 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced federal funding of CAD2 million to support emission reduction initiatives in the City of Calgary.<sup>5712</sup> The city's biomass production and carbon sequestration project will use the funds to plant 300 hectares of trees at the city's willow plantation over the span of three years.<sup>5713</sup>

On 16 September 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced federal funding of CAD12 million to fund 164 different projects to increase sustainability and climate change resiliency in Saskatchewan schools.<sup>5714</sup> The projects will work towards this goal by using the funds to install insulated windows, utilizing LED lights, and energy efficient heating and cooling systems as well as other adjustments to reduce emissions.<sup>5715</sup>

On 17 September 2020, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Terry Duguid, announced federal funding of CAD5 million for 127 projects to increase the

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<sup>5709</sup> Government of Canada supports innovative climate action by the City of Toronto, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Toronto) 21 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-supports-innovative-climate-action-by-the-city-of-toronto.html>

<sup>5710</sup> Government of Canada investing in solar panels in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Lumsden) 24 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-investing-in-solar-panels-in-lumsden-saskatchewan.html>

<sup>5711</sup> Government of Canada investing in solar panels in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Lumsden) 24 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-investing-in-solar-panels-in-lumsden-saskatchewan.html>

<sup>5712</sup> Government of Canada reducing emissions in Calgary by expanding the willow plantation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Calgary) 25 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-reducing-emissions-in-calgary-by-expanding-the-willow-plantation.html>

<sup>5713</sup> Government of Canada reducing emissions in Calgary by expanding the willow plantation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Calgary) 25 August 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/08/government-of-canada-reducing-emissions-in-calgary-by-expanding-the-willow-plantation.html>

<sup>5714</sup> Over 160 Energy Efficiency projects set to move ahead for schools in Saskatchewan thanks to carbon pollution pricing proceeds, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 16 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/over-160-energy-efficiency-projects-set-to-move-ahead-for-schools-in-saskatchewan-thanks-to-carbon-pollution-pricing-proceeds.html>

<sup>5715</sup> Over 160 Energy Efficiency projects set to move ahead for schools in Saskatchewan thanks to carbon pollution pricing proceeds, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 16 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/over-160-energy-efficiency-projects-set-to-move-ahead-for-schools-in-saskatchewan-thanks-to-carbon-pollution-pricing-proceeds.html>

sustainability and climate resiliency of Manitoba schools.<sup>5716</sup> These projects will work towards this goal by upgrading insulation and lighting to more energy efficient alternatives.<sup>5717</sup>

On 17 September 2020, Minister Wilkinson announced that the Government of Canada is creating a new Climate Action and Awareness fund.<sup>5718</sup> CAD206 million will be invested in various projects to reduce emissions throughout the country and mitigate the risks of climate change.<sup>5719</sup> It will do this by educating youth to take climate leadership and increasing climate research.<sup>5720</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Government of Canada announced it will be providing CAD 640,000 from the Low Carbon Economy Fund to assist the University of Guelph's heating system upgrades in order to reduce emissions.<sup>5721</sup> The upgrades will allow for the reduction of 62,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>5722</sup>

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its Climate Action Fund to Clean Air Partnerships, Low Carbon Economy Fund, phasing out of coal-fired power and investment in climate change and energy-efficient technology. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its Environmental Damages Fund, Indigenous Guardians Pilot Program and investment in Building with Climate Change.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Gabrielle Regimbal*

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<sup>5716</sup> Over 120 Energy Efficiency projects set to move ahead for schools in Manitoba thanks t carbon pollution pricing proceeds, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 17 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/over-120-energy-efficiency-projects-set-to-move-ahead-for-schools-in-manitoba-thanks-to-carbon-pollution-pricing-proceeds.html>

<sup>5717</sup> Over 120 Energy Efficiency projects set to move ahead for schools in Manitoba thanks t carbon pollution pricing proceeds, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Ottawa) 17 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/over-120-energy-efficiency-projects-set-to-move-ahead-for-schools-in-manitoba-thanks-to-carbon-pollution-pricing-proceeds.html>

<sup>5718</sup> New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support youth, scientists, and researchers across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 17 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/new-206-million-climate-action-and-awareness-fund-to-support-youth-scientists-and-researchers-across-canada.html>

<sup>5719</sup> New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support youth, scientists, and researchers across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 17 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/new-206-million-climate-action-and-awareness-fund-to-support-youth-scientists-and-researchers-across-canada.html>

<sup>5720</sup> New \$206 million Climate Action and Awareness Fund to support youth, scientists, and researchers across Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Vancouver) 17 September 2020. Date Accessed: 25 September 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/09/new-206-million-climate-action-and-awareness-fund-to-support-youth-scientists-and-researchers-across-canada.html>

<sup>5721</sup> Government of Canada reducing emissions at the University of Guelph by upgrading the campus heating system, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-reducing-emissions-at-the-university-of-guelph-by-upgrading-the-campus-heating-system.html>

<sup>5722</sup> Government of Canada reducing emissions at the University of Guelph by upgrading the campus heating system, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2020/10/government-of-canada-reducing-emissions-at-the-university-of-guelph-by-upgrading-the-campus-heating-system.html>



**China: +1**

China has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 17 September 2019, the Ministry of the Environment and Ecology released a report for the United Nations Climate Action Summit detailing their position and nine actions they will be taking to combat climate change. First, it will be taking a “nature-based” approach that prioritizes nature’s role in dealing with the risks of climate change and “foster a low-emission and climate-resilient society.”<sup>5723</sup> Ways it will achieve this is by fostering biodiversity to harness grasslands and forestry as carbon sinks, and having mechanisms in place to improve flood control, drought and disaster mitigation resources. Second, China proposed to address social and political drivers through the “Climate Action Targets for 2020 and 2030.”<sup>5724</sup> It has taken measures to enhance its legal and policy frameworks that “promote green production and consumption, fostered a sound economic structure that facilitates green, low-carbon, and circular development, established regulatory agencies to manage state-owned natural resource assets and monitor natural ecosystems.”<sup>5725</sup> Third, China recognizes and supports youth and mobilization as proponents for climate change efforts.<sup>5726</sup> Fourth, it recognizes the need for energy transition and states it will continue its path of renewable energy production and consumption, and will seek further cooperation with other countries for low carbon, sustainable development.<sup>5727</sup> Fifth, it will focus on industrial transformation by “strengthening energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.”<sup>5728</sup> Sixth, it will utilize infrastructure, cities and local action. It will accelerate efforts to make cities more adaptive, create more “sponge city” developments and reduce emissions. It will also utilize green transportation, green building and clean energy as part of its “Belt and Road” project.<sup>5729</sup> Seventh, China recognizes the need for a mitigation strategy which highlights emission control and capacity building through the creation of low-carbon products and green development.<sup>5730</sup> Eighth, it aims to foster resilience and adaptation through “disaster and risk management, improved ... monitoring ... early warning and disaster prevention and reduction measures, improved adaptability of the planting industry, and provide farmers with

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<sup>5723</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5724</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5725</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5726</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5727</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5728</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5729</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5730</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

more on adaptation technologies.”<sup>5731</sup> Last, China calls commits to and calls on other nations to commit USD100 billion every year from 2020 onward to help developing nations address climate change.<sup>5732</sup>

On 26 October 2019, China hosted the 29th BASIC meeting in Beijing, with delegates from Brazil, South Africa and India. In preparation for the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, they acknowledged climate change and “confirmed their commitments to multilateralism in order to address the issue and to foster climate resilience and promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction.”<sup>5733</sup> They also emphasized their commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and support of other developing countries in doing so as well as they are the most vulnerable to climate change repercussions.<sup>5734</sup> Additionally, the BASIC group encouraged funding to the Green Climate Fund to support developing countries as they adapt.<sup>5735</sup> The Green Climate Fund sets out to “help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change.”<sup>5736</sup>

On 28 October, China hosted its Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, where a new national land system was announced with emphasis on creating red line territories to create permanent quality farmland, ecological protection, and “urban boundaries.”<sup>5737</sup> The goal is to use resources more efficiently and improve mechanisms for ecological restoration and sustainable development, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change.<sup>5738</sup>

On 6 November 2019, President Xi Jinping stated jointly with French President Emmanuel Macron that they confirm their support of the Paris Agreement.<sup>5739</sup>

On 22 June 2020, China announced a cap on its annual energy usage at 5 billion tonnes of coal per year.<sup>5740</sup> The percentage of energy used that uses coal was declared to be 57.5 percent, a decrease of 0.2 percent from 2019 and 1.7 percent from 2018.<sup>5741</sup>

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<sup>5731</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5732</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5733</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5734</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5735</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5736</sup> About GCF, Green Climate Fund (Songdo). Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/contact>

<sup>5737</sup> Environment gets priority as country grows, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 3 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/media\\_news/202001/t20200103\\_756697.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/media_news/202001/t20200103_756697.shtml)

<sup>5738</sup> UN Climate Action Summit: China’s Position and Action, Ministry of Ecology and Environment (Beijing) 17 September 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020.

[http://english.mee.gov.cn/News\\_service/news\\_release/201909/t20190917\\_734051.shtml](http://english.mee.gov.cn/News_service/news_release/201909/t20190917_734051.shtml)

<sup>5739</sup> China, France reaffirm support of Paris climate agreement, call it 'irreversible' , Reuters (London) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-france-paris-agreement/china-france-reaffirm-support-of-paris-climate-agreement-call-it-irreversible-idUSKBN1XGOQJ>

On 22 September 2020 at the 75th United Nations General Assembly's general debate, President Xi Jinping of China declared that China will enlarge its Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement.<sup>5742</sup> Specifically, he announced that China will reach maximum carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2060.<sup>5743</sup>

China has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its promotion of green technology and carbon offsets at the UN Climate Summit, its support for the Paris Agreement and goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2060, and its cap on coal emissions. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its enhancement of monitoring systems, participation in the Green Climate Fund, and the creation of red lines.

Thus, China receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jolie Leung*

### **France: +1**

France has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 9 July 2019, the French foreign minister announced a tax between EUR1.50 and EUR20 for the majority of flights departing from France. The resulting tax revenue, expected to be over EUR180 million, is to fund low-emissions infrastructure for transportation.<sup>5744</sup>

On 10 August 2019, France and the United Kingdom announced a new phase of their Cob Bauge project, a joint venture in the process of developing energy-efficient housing, while also developing low-carbon technology in the field of construction. The development can save up to four tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per building, and is significantly less carbon-intensive than concrete, brick and plastic building materials. It will also assist both governments in their goal to meet current European Union targets, and reduce their energy use by 20 per cent of 2012 levels by 2020.<sup>5745</sup>

On 11 October 2019, the Ministry of Ecology and Inclusive Transition reaffirmed their commitment to the reduction and prevention of natural disasters. It stressed that there needs to be a strong understanding of different phenomena, and monitoring, forecasting and alerting systems. Prevention

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<sup>5740</sup> China to cap 2020 energy use at 5 billion tonnes of coal equivalent, Xinhua Net (Beijing) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/22/c\\_139158571.html](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/22/c_139158571.html)

<sup>5741</sup> China to cap 2020 energy use at 5 billion tonnes of coal equivalent, Xinhua Net (Beijing) 22 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/22/c\\_139158571.html](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/22/c_139158571.html)

<sup>5742</sup> 'Enhance solidarity' to fight COVID-19, Chinese President urges, also pledges carbon neutrality by 2060, UN News (Geneva). Access Date: 23 August 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1073052>

<sup>5743</sup> 'Enhance solidarity' to fight COVID-19, Chinese President urges, also pledges carbon neutrality by 2060, UN News (Geneva). Access Date: 23 August 2020. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/09/1073052>

<sup>5744</sup> France will implement an 'ecotax' on plane tickets from 2020, CTV News (Toronto) 9 July 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.ctvnews.ca/lifestyle/france-will-implement-an-ecotax-on-plane-tickets-from-2020-1.4500091>

<sup>5745</sup> Down-to-earth collaboration in France and England for low-carbon, sustainable houses, European Commission (Brussels) 10 August 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/projects/france/down-to-earth-collaboration-in-france-and-england-for-low-carbon-sustainable-houses](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/france/down-to-earth-collaboration-in-france-and-england-for-low-carbon-sustainable-houses)

is achievable through risk planning, reduction of building vulnerability and should disaster occur, better construction and reconstruction.<sup>5746</sup>

On 6 November 2019, French President Emmanuel Macron stated jointly with Chinese President Xi Jinping that they confirm their support of the Paris Agreement.<sup>5747</sup>

On 7 November 2019, Minister of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition Elisabeth Borne announced four decisions: “the abandonment of the Europacity project, the rehabilitation of wasteland as a lever to fight against the artificialization of soils, the strengthening of protected areas and adaptation of forests to climate change.”<sup>5748</sup> Borne states that the development of protected areas and preservation of forests will assist in the fight against global warming.<sup>5749</sup>

On 8 November 2019, the French Senate passed the Law on Energy and Climate, which intends to respond to climate and ecological issues. Included in this law are objectives such as stopping carbon-based energy production by 2022, requiring new supermarkets and warehouses to install solar panels, and support towards hydrogen-based energy production.<sup>5750</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the Ministry of Ecology and Inclusive Transition reported that its last four coal plants will be shutting down by 2022 as part of their fight against climate change. France recognizes that while they only have four active plants, that only provide 1.18 per cent of national electricity, they also generate 10 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>5751</sup>

On 12 February 2020, Minister Borne announced four main themes to be addressed. These four themes include the implementation of flood prevention programs, coping with declining coastlines by implementing building rules to limit erosion, protecting biodiversity by granting areas protected area status, and offering more environmentally friendly public services.<sup>5752</sup>

On 13 February 2020, France along with Austria, Germany, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Belgian Wallonia region and the European Commission adopted the

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<sup>5746</sup> International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 11 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/journee-internationale-prevention-des-catastrophes-naturelles>

<sup>5747</sup> China, France reaffirm support of Paris climate agreement, call it 'irreversible', Reuters (London) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-france-paris-agreement/china-france-reaffirm-support-of-paris-climate-agreement-call-it-irreversible-idUSKBN1XG0QJ>

<sup>5748</sup> Third ecological defense advice: what to remember, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/troisieme-conseil-defense-ecologique-quil-faut-retenir>

<sup>5749</sup> Third ecological defense advice: what to remember, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/troisieme-conseil-defense-ecologique-quil-faut-retenir>

<sup>5750</sup> Loi du 8 novembre 2019 relative à l'énergie et au climat, Vie publique (Paris) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 6 February 2020. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/23814-loi-energie-et-climat-du-8-novembre-2019>

<sup>5751</sup> Coal plants to close by 2022, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/fermeture-des-centrales-charbon-aura-lieu-dici-2022>

<sup>5752</sup> Fourth ecological defense council: government priorities for ecological transition, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 12 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/quatrieme-conseil-defense-ecologique-priorites-du-gouvernement-transition-ecologique>

Rhine 2040 programme. This collaboration of countries situated along the Rhine river aims at “managing the Rhine and its river basin in a sustainable way and make it climate resilient.”<sup>5753</sup>

On 21 February 2020, the Ministry of Ecological and Inclusive Transition announced the Fessenheim nuclear power plant will be shut down. This decision is part of its implementation of its energy-climate strategy that focuses on energy transition and green growth.<sup>5754</sup>

On 26 February 2020, the Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition announced that its CO2 emissions dropped by six per cent in 2019 due to wind and solar power.<sup>5755</sup>

On 25 March 2020, France announced the opening of registration for Resilient Building Trophies organized by the Natural Risks Missions. As a competition, it “aims to promote buildings adapted to one or more natural and climatic hazards” as the government recognizes the threat of natural disasters such as floods, droughts and earthquakes.<sup>5756</sup>

On 23 April 2020, France published an energy plan with checkpoints at 2023 and 2028. The plan decrees “20.1 GW of renewables generation capacity in 2023 and 44 GW by 2028.”<sup>5757</sup> The objective is to make green hydrogen account for 10 per cent of the industrial mix for 2021 and approximately 20 to 40 per cent within five years. Additionally, there will be a focus on electromobility, with the goal of having three million electric vehicles in 2028.<sup>5758</sup>

On 9 June 2020, France pledged EUR1.5 billion to the development of a carbon-neutral airplane by 2035.<sup>5759</sup> This funding is part of a national plan for the improvement of the aviation industry after and during the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>5760</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative’s member states (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) announced USD4.8 million for “the delivery of early warning systems and services” to the Pacific

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<sup>5753</sup> Rhine countries adopt programme for sustainable management and climate resilience, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/rhine-countries-adopt-programme-for-sustainable-management-and-climate-resilience/>

<sup>5754</sup> Closure of the Fessenheim power station, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 21 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/fermeture-centrale-fessenheim>

<sup>5755</sup> Electricity: 6% drop in French Co2 emissions in 2019, Ministry of the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/electricite-baisse-6-des-emissions-francaises-co2-en-2019>

<sup>5756</sup> Launch of the Resilient Buildings trophies, Ministry of Ecology and Inclusive Transition (Paris) 25 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.ecologique-solidaire.gouv.fr/lancement-des-trophees-batiments-resilients>

<sup>5757</sup> France makes 44 GW solar target official, pv magazine (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/04/23/france-makes-2028-solar-target-official/>

<sup>5758</sup> France makes 44 GW solar target official, pv magazine (Berlin) 23 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2020/04/23/france-makes-2028-solar-target-official/>

<sup>5759</sup> France pumps €1.5bn into building 'carbon neutral plane' by 2035, The Telegraph (London) 9 June 2020. Access Date: July 27, 2020. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/09/france-pumps-15bn-building-carbon-neutral-plane-2035/>

<sup>5760</sup> France pumps €1.5bn into building 'carbon neutral plane' by 2035, The Telegraph (London) 9 June 2020. Access Date: July 27, 2020. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/06/09/france-pumps-15bn-building-carbon-neutral-plane-2035/>

region. The objective of these systems and services was to protect residents from severe weather.<sup>5761</sup> These systems and services are intended to allow for proactivity by making forecasting possible.<sup>5762</sup>

On 21 June 2020, the Citizens' Convention on Climate in Paris was completed and 149 proposals detailing the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions was passed to the French government by 150 citizens, as an initiative to increase direct democracy.<sup>5763</sup> Of the 149 proposals, 146 were retained by President Macron.<sup>5764</sup>

France has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its Law on Energy and Climate, and its closure of both coal and nuclear power plants. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its concentration on flood prevention, limitation of coastal erosion, protection of biodiversity, implementation of more eco-friendly public services and Resilient Building Trophies.

Therefore, France receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jolie Leung*

### **Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 12 July 2019, the Environment Ministry launched a new program “Capacity Building and Finance for National and Local Action on Climate and Biodiversity” to provide grants of up to EUR125,000 to small projects promoting local climate and nature conservation in developing countries and emerging economies. This program also funds national and regional funding institutions so they can improve funding structures for climate action and biodiversity at local level.<sup>5765</sup>

On 20 September 2019, the German government announced the Climate Action Programme 2030 and Climate Change Act that included a carbon price on heating and transportation sectors, subsidies on replacing oil and gas heating systems, favorable treatment for electric vehicles, a re-iterated commitment to phase out coal-fired power stations by 2038 and an aim to increase the share of electric power generated by renewables to 65 per cent by 2030. The goal is to fulfill Germany's commitments in the Paris Agreement by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 and achieving greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.<sup>5766</sup>

On 22 September 2019, “Federal Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced that Germany is joining the international Powering Past Coal Alliance.” The goal is to “halt the construction of new

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<sup>5761</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5762</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5763</sup> France reveals first measures to combat climate change, The Local (Stockholm) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20200728/france-reveals-first-measures-to-combat-climate-change>

<sup>5764</sup> France reveals first measures to combat climate change, The Local (Stockholm) 28 July 2020. Access Date: 20 September 2020. <https://www.thelocal.fr/20200728/france-reveals-first-measures-to-combat-climate-change>

<sup>5765</sup> BMU launches global fund for local climate and biodiversity projects. Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 12 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/bmu-launches-global-fund-for-local-climate-and-biodiversity-projects/>

<sup>5766</sup> Climate Action Programme 2030, The Federal Government of Germany (Berlin) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/climate-action/klimaschutzprogramm-2030-1674080>

coal-fired power plants, discontinue international financing of the coal industry, set a date for the coal phase-out and align their NDCs [nationally determined contributions] with the goals of the Paris Agreement.”<sup>5767</sup>

On 22 September 2019, the government, together with the government of Luxembourg and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate, announced the launch of the City Climate Finance Gap Fund. The German government intended to provide up to EUR40 million to grant high-quality low-carbon and climate resilient infrastructure projects in cities. The goal is to provide critical funding and a mature platform for climate friendly infrastructures in concentrated areas of greenhouse gas emission.<sup>5768</sup>

On 22 September 2019, the government, together with the Norwegian and British governments, issued a joint statement calling for “increased ambition and action by the global community to conserve and restore tropical forests.”<sup>5769</sup> The goal is to encourage protection of forests that trap greenhouse gases.<sup>5770</sup>

On 9 October 2019, the federal cabinet adopted the Climate Action Programme 2030 and the draft of the Climate Change Act. The Climate Change Act will set legally binding limits on carbon dioxide emissions for each economic sector for every year. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions by 55 per cent by 2030 and achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.<sup>5771</sup>

On 23 October 2019, the Environment Ministry announced an additional EUR21 million to be invested in marine conservation projects in Asia, Latin America and the Pacific Islands. “The projects will contribute to conserving biodiversity and landscape diversity of certain marine areas and reducing the effects of climate change.”<sup>5772</sup>

On 11 November 2019, the Environment Ministry launched a global competition for “projects implementing the Paris Agreement and projects on biological diversity.” A total of EUR240 million will be provided from International Climate Initiative Funds for the implementation of winning

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<sup>5767</sup> Germany joins Powering Past Coal Alliance, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-joins-powering-past-coal-alliance-1/>

<sup>5768</sup> Cities and National Governments Partner on EUR 100 million City Climate Finance Gap Fund, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/cities-and-national-governments-partner-on-eur-100-million-city-climate-finance-gap-fund/>

<sup>5769</sup> Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom call for more ambition on global forest protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-norway-and-the-united-kingdom-call-for-more-ambition-on-global-forest-protection-1/>

<sup>5770</sup> Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom call for more ambition on global forest protection, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 22 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-norway-and-the-united-kingdom-call-for-more-ambition-on-global-forest-protection-1/>

<sup>5771</sup> Minister Schulze: Climate action becomes law, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-climate-action-becomes-law-1/>

<sup>5772</sup> Germany tops up funds for international marine conservation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 23 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germany-tops-up-funds-for-international-marine-conservation-1/>

projects. “The aim is to support developing and emerging countries in their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to climate change and conserve biodiversity.”<sup>5773</sup>

On 19 November 2019, the government and the World Bank “launched a new Facility to support private sector investment in green businesses and mobilize financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in Africa.”<sup>5774</sup> The Facility “aims to unlock private sector investment that fosters climate activities of small and medium-sized enterprises in CwA [Compact with Africa] countries.”<sup>5775</sup>

On 5 December 2019, the Environment Ministry announced EUR60 million funding for three new ecosystem-based adaption programmes. The goal is “to support adaptation to climate change via projects that benefit people and strengthen ecosystems at the same time.”<sup>5776</sup>

On 7 December 2019, the Environment Ministry, together with the German Society for International Cooperation “presented its new support programme for local projects that protect climate and biodiversity.” This program is funded by the International Climate Initiative and will grant EUR100,000 to 100 selected projects from small, non-profit organizations in developing countries. The goal is to “promote innovative ideas, adapted to the local conditions and needs, that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and to promote the establishment of weather-resilient and climate-resilient infrastructures” in developing regions.<sup>5777</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Environment Minister Svenja Schulze announced the establishment of a Power-to-X Secretariat that will bring all power-to-x activities (technologies used to produce synthetic fuels and base materials from electricity) under one roof and expand on them. The goal is to “improve global exchange of knowledge, better determine the climate action potential of these products and jointly develop sustainability criteria for their application.”<sup>5778</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister Schulze committed to provide an additional EUR30 million to the Adaptation Fund that finances “early warning systems for floods and heavy rainfall, and measures for

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<sup>5773</sup> Launch of international competition on climate action and biological diversity, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 11 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/launch-of-international-competition-on-climate-action-and-biological-diversity/>

<sup>5774</sup> G20 Compact with Africa Facility supports green business, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g20-compact-with-africa-facility-supports-green-business-1/>

<sup>5775</sup> G20 Compact with Africa Facility supports green business, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 19 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/g20-compact-with-africa-facility-supports-green-business-1/>

<sup>5776</sup> Minister Schulze: Nature often provides the best solutions for tackling climate change, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 5 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/minister-schulze-nature-often-provides-the-best-solutions-for-tackling-climate-change/>

<sup>5777</sup> New support programme for local small-scale projects in developing countries, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 7 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/new-support-programme-for-local-small-scale-projects-in-developing-countries-1/>

<sup>5778</sup> Environment Minister Schulze: “We need a global strategy for green hydrogen”, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/environment-minister-schulze-we-need-a-global-strategy-for-green-hydrogen-1/>



securing water supply and switching to drought-resistant farming methods in agriculture” in developing countries.<sup>5779</sup> The goal is help developing countries adapt to climate change.<sup>5780</sup>

On 11 December 2019, the government signed the Joint Declaration to reduce deforestation in Colombia with Colombia, Norway and the United Kingdom that devotes USD360 million in “payments for achieved emission reductions” and “contributions for policy objectives and implementation.”<sup>5781</sup> The goal is to aid Colombia in preserving and restoring forests.<sup>5782</sup>

On 11 December 2019, Minister Schulze, together with United Nations Development Programme Administrator Achim Steiner and Food and Agriculture Organization Director-General Qu Dongyu, “launched new funding of EUR20 million under the Federal Environment Ministry’s International Climate Initiative for supporting up to 12 developing countries in implementing national climate change targets in the area of land use and agriculture.”<sup>5783</sup> The goal is to promote low-emission agriculture and climate change adaptation.<sup>5784</sup>

On 18 December 2019, the Climate Action Act initiated by the German government entered into force. The goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emission by 55 per cent by 2030 and achieve greenhouse gas neutrality by 2050.<sup>5785</sup>

On 20 December 2019, Germany’s parliament approved the government’s package of measures to meet its climate action goals. The measures include carbon price of EUR25 per metric ton, reduced tax on long-distance train travel, tax benefit for energy-saving home renovations and increased commuters’ allowance. These measures seek to cut greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>5786</sup>

On 16 January 2020, the government and Germany’s four coal-producing states announced details on their plan to phase out coal by 2035 and latest by 2038. In this plan, the government will pay energy firms EUR4.35 billion in compensation for the coal phaseout; it will also provide EUR40

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<sup>5779</sup> UN Climate Change Conference: Germany supports Adaptation Fund with 30 million euros, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-climate-change-conference-germany-supports-adaptation-fund-with-30-million-euros/>

<sup>5780</sup> UN Climate Change Conference: Germany supports Adaptation Fund with 30 million euros, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/un-climate-change-conference-germany-supports-adaptation-fund-with-30-million-euros/>

<sup>5781</sup> Columbia, Germany, Norway and the UK step up efforts to reduce deforestation in Colombia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/colombia-germany-norway-and-the-uk-step-up-efforts-to-reduce-deforestation-in-colombia-1/>

<sup>5782</sup> Columbia, Germany, Norway and the UK step up efforts to reduce deforestation in Colombia, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/colombia-germany-norway-and-the-uk-step-up-efforts-to-reduce-deforestation-in-colombia-1/>

<sup>5783</sup> BMU promotes climate action in farming, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/bmu-promotes-climate-action-in-farming/>

<sup>5784</sup> BMU promotes climate action in farming, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 4 April 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/bmu-promotes-climate-action-in-farming/>

<sup>5785</sup> Germany’s Climate Action Law, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/germanys-climate-action-law-begins-take-shape>

<sup>5786</sup> German upper house approves amended climate plans, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 20 December 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/german-upper-house-approves-amended-climate-plans/a-51750251>.

billion to aid affected states in transition; it will close down at least 8 coal-fired power plants in 2020. The goal is to cut carbon emission from coal-powered plants.<sup>5787</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety launched the International Climate Initiative Medium Grants. This program will provide EUR30 million over five years to projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and conserving biodiversity. Its goal is to “support North-South cooperation of global climate action and biodiversity conversation in developing countries and emerging economies.”<sup>5788</sup>

On 13 February 2020, Germany, along with Austria, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the Belgian Wallonia region and the European Commission adopted the Rhine 2040 programme. This collaboration of countries situated along the Rhine river aims at “managing the Rhine and its river basin in a sustainable way and make it climate resilient.”<sup>5789</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative’s member states (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) announced USD4.8 million for “the delivery of early warning systems and services” to the Pacific region. The objective of these systems and services was to protect residents from severe weather.<sup>5790</sup> These systems and services are intended to allow for proactivity by making forecasting possible.<sup>5791</sup>

On 29 June 2020, Germany passed the Coronavirus Tax Assistance Act with EUR50 billion invested in low-emission technologies.<sup>5792</sup> The stimulus would serve to subsidize electrical and low-emission vehicles, modernize the railway system, develop hydrogen technology, expand solar and wind power and fund the CO2 building renovation programme.<sup>5793</sup> The goal is to promote sustainable mobility and low-carbon development as part of the economic recovery strategy.<sup>5794</sup>

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<sup>5787</sup> Germany to pay energy firms billions in coal phaseout plan, Deutsche Welle (Bonn) 16 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/germany-to-pay-energy-firms-billions-in-coal-phaseout-plan/a-52022317>

<sup>5788</sup> Federal Environment Ministry launches new climate action support programme for global North-South Cooperation, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/federal-environment-ministry-launches-new-climate-action-support-programme-for-global-north-south-co/>

<sup>5789</sup> Rhine countries adopt programme for sustainable management and climate resilience, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/rhine-countries-adopt-programme-for-sustainable-management-and-climate-resilience/>

<sup>5790</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5791</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>5792</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

<sup>5793</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

<sup>5794</sup> Emerging from the crisis with full strength, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 29 June 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Public-Finances/Articles/2020-06-04-fiscal-package.html>

On 1 July 2020, Germany assumed the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and promised to make all events under its presidency climate neutral.<sup>5795</sup> That includes the selection of venue based on sustainability criteria, serving exclusively vegetarian catering and offsetting unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions from participants' travel through the purchase of carbon credits.<sup>5796</sup> The goal is “to take action that is in line with Germany’s political advocacy for sustainable and climate-neutral lifestyles and economies.”<sup>5797</sup>

On 1 July 2020, the German Environment Agency assumed chairmanship of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission — Helsinki Commission.<sup>5798</sup> Germany aims to strengthen marine protection, including against the effects of climate change and to explore the potential of ecosystems as natural carbon sinks.<sup>5799</sup> The goal is to “make progress on marine protection and climate issues.”<sup>5800</sup>

On 5 July 2020, Germany’s parliament passed the Coal Phase-out Act to end coal-fired power generation by 2038.<sup>5801</sup> The Act prohibits putting new hard coal or lignite power plants into service, sets out a shutdown schedule for lignite power plants and provides EUR40 billion worth of compensation payments.<sup>5802</sup> The goal is to cut carbon emission from coal-powered plants and replace them with cleaner energy sources.<sup>5803</sup>

On 17 July 2020, the Federal Environment Ministry adopted a support package to provide EUR68 million from the International Climate Initiative to 25 developing and newly industrialized economies. This fund “supports relief for protected areas and biodiversity hotspots, promotes a climate-friendly economic recovery and increases resilience against future pandemics.”<sup>5804</sup> Concrete measures include safeguarding non-polluting jobs in protected areas and covering expenses for

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<sup>5795</sup> Germany’s Council Presidency will be climate neutral and sustainable, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

<sup>5796</sup> Germany’s Council Presidency will be climate neutral and sustainable, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

<sup>5797</sup> Germany’s Council Presidency will be climate neutral and sustainable, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/germanys-council-presidency-will-be-climate-neutral-and-sustainable/>

<sup>5798</sup> Germany assumes chairmanship of Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), German Environment Agency (Dessau-Roßlau) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/germany-assumes-chairmanship-of-baltic-marine>

<sup>5799</sup> Germany assumes chairmanship of Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), German Environment Agency (Dessau-Roßlau) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/germany-assumes-chairmanship-of-baltic-marine>

<sup>5800</sup> Germany assumes chairmanship of Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), German Environment Agency (Dessau-Roßlau) 2 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/press/pressinformation/germany-assumes-chairmanship-of-baltic-marine>

<sup>5801</sup> Spelling out the coal exit – Germany’s phase-out plan, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/spelling-out-coal-phase-out-germanys-exit-law-draft>.

<sup>5802</sup> Spelling out the coal exit – Germany’s phase-out plan, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/spelling-out-coal-phase-out-germanys-exit-law-draft>.

<sup>5803</sup> Spelling out the coal exit – Germany’s phase-out plan, Clean Energy Wire (Berlin) 3 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/spelling-out-coal-phase-out-germanys-exit-law-draft>.

<sup>5804</sup> Global green recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative/>.

economic advisers to anchor climate action in recovery programmes.<sup>5805</sup> The goal is to support climate-conscious economic recovery in partner countries.<sup>5806</sup>

On 29 July 2020, Germany signed a grant to provide EUR58.4 million to finance renewable energy, agriculture and rural development in Uganda. The funds will be invested in initiatives supporting Uganda's implementation of its National Development Plan III, the United Nation's Agenda 2030 and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union. The goal is to continue the promotion of renewable and efficient energy in Uganda.<sup>5807</sup>

On 31 July 2020, Germany signed an agreement to allocate a EUR170 million loan and EUR28.5 million grant to Georgia.<sup>5808</sup> The funds support the development of sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency, utility infrastructure for environment and tourism, biodiversity and sustainable local development in Georgia.<sup>5809</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Facility announced EUR168 million in funding for the Euros Ambition Initiative, in which both the United Kingdom and Germany contributed.<sup>5810</sup> The goal of this initiative is to contribute to global green recovery efforts and work towards carbon neutrality.<sup>5811</sup> This can be achieved through methods such as investment in electric vehicles, carbon-low farming practices and an increase of energy efficiency in the housing sector.<sup>5812</sup>

On 7 October 2020, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development met outline plans for the initial phase of the International Climate Initiative.<sup>5813</sup> It is a five-year, EUR 15 million

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<sup>5805</sup> Global green recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative/>.

<sup>5806</sup> Global green recovery and the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020.

<https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/global-green-recovery-and-the-international-climate-initiative/>.

<sup>5807</sup> Germany gives Uganda UGX 254b for energy, agriculture and governance, The Independent (Kampala) 30 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://www.independent.co.ug/germany-gives-uganda-ugx-254b-for-energy-agriculture-and-governance/>

<sup>5808</sup> Germany allocates €200mIn to Georgia for mobility, energy, infrastructure and biodiversity projects, Agenda.GE (Tbilisi) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://agenda.ge/en/news/2020/2417>

<sup>5809</sup> Germany allocates €200mIn to Georgia for mobility, energy, infrastructure and biodiversity projects, Agenda.GE (Tbilisi) 31 July 2020. Access Date: 1 August 2020. <https://agenda.ge/en/news/2020/2417>

<sup>5810</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new "Ambition Initiative," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>5811</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new "Ambition Initiative," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>5812</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new "Ambition Initiative," Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>5813</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

initiative, sponsored by Germany, that will aim to address numerous areas of climate change.<sup>5814</sup> These areas include “forests and landscape restoration; resource efficiency, sustainable mobility; and climate governance, cooperation and sustainable finance” within 60 developing countries.<sup>5815</sup>

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions though its deforestation efforts internationally, its Climate Action Programme 2030, the Climate Act and its International Climate Medium grants. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its Capacity Building and Finance for National and Local Action on Climate and Biodiversity initiative, its City Climate Finance Gap Fund and Rhine 2040 programme.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Wai Suet Gi Gi Chan*

### **India: +1**

India has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 14 July 2019 to 15 July 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change took part in the Partnership Action on Green Economy consultation workshop. The overall themes discussed include the transition into a sustainable, green economy with regard to ecosystem vulnerabilities, consumption, production, financial mechanisms and employment.<sup>5816</sup>

On 2 September 2019 to 13 September 2019, India hosted the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, which deliberated issues related to land restoration, drought preparedness, and how to ensure gender balance, youth engagement, and land rights.<sup>5817</sup>

On 25 September 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the project, “Forest Plus 2.0 (Forest for Water and Prosperity)” in the cities of Kerala, Telangana, and Bihar. This is a five-year program in collaboration with the US Agency for International Development to improve the status of the forests in this region.<sup>5818</sup>

On 4 October 2019, the US and India launched the Flexible Resource Initiative in New Delhi, under the US-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force. The goal is so “develop strategies to ensure that

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<sup>5814</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

<sup>5815</sup> A climate initiative proposal with German funding started, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Buenos Aires) 7 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/noticias/se-inicio-una-propuesta-de-iniciativa-climatica-con-financiamiento-aleman>

<sup>5816</sup> July Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 08 August 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/july-2019.pdf>

<sup>5817</sup> September Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/septemper2019.pdf>

<sup>5818</sup> September Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 18 October 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/septemper2019.pdf>

India's power systems are flexible enough to integrate renewable energy within the next decade, while still meeting market demands for electricity, in order to achieve its renewable energy vision."<sup>5819</sup>

On 26 October 2019, India attended the 29th BASIC meeting in Beijing, with delegates from China, South Africa and Brazil. In preparation for 25th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), they acknowledged climate change and "confirmed their commitments to multilateralism in order to address the issue and to foster climate resilience and promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction."<sup>5820</sup> They also emphasized their commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and support of other developing countries in doing so as well as they are the most vulnerable to climate change repercussions.<sup>5821</sup> Additionally, the BASIC group encouraged funding to the Green Climate Fund to support developing countries as they adapt.<sup>5822</sup> The Green Climate Fund sets out to "help developing countries reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and enhance their ability to respond to climate change."<sup>5823</sup>

On 19 November 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change attended the G20's Climate Sustainability Working Group adaptation program at Bangkok, Thailand.<sup>5824</sup>

On 2 December 2019 to 15 December 2019, the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, along with other federal institutions in the Indian delegation participated in COP25.<sup>5825</sup>

In January 2020, India had announced that they have achieved their Stage II objective of the Ministry of the Environment's HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan, in Article 5 of the Montreal Protocol. This stage stipulates that the country would work towards entirely transitioning away from HCFC 141b in the foam manufacturing sector in order to reduce emissions.<sup>5826</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the United Kingdom was announced as the first co-chair of the governing council to India's Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure.<sup>5827</sup> The body was established by

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<sup>5819</sup> United States and India Launch Flexible Resources Initiative-Growth through Clean Energy, US Department of State (Washington) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-india-launch-flexible-resources-initiative-growth-through-clean-energy/>

<sup>5820</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5821</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5822</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5823</sup> About GCF, Green Climate Fund (Songdo). Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/about/contact>

<sup>5824</sup> November Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 11 December 2019. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/November.pdf>

<sup>5825</sup> December Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/December.pdf>

<sup>5826</sup> January Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 10 February 2020. Access Date: 26 March 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/10-jan.pdf>

<sup>5827</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and consists of an international group, joining governments, UN agencies, banks, private sector groups and academia to develop resilient infrastructure systems able to withstand climate and disaster risks.<sup>5828</sup> As part of UK-India combined efforts, the nations have launched a joint venture between UK's EO Charging and India's Yahvi Enterprises, which are set to deliver charging infrastructure for electric vehicles across India. Through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act, the UK has also begun the construction of "flood defences and river structures to encourage aquifer replenishment."<sup>5829</sup> India and the UK have also jointly committed GBP240 million towards capital in the Green Growth Equity Fund, which is expected to finance Ayana Renewable Power's development of 800MW in solar power capacity.<sup>5830</sup>

On 7 July 2020, the Honourable Minister of State for the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change stated his intent to successfully implement climate actions including "renewable energy expansion, energy efficiency measures [and] policy incentives for e-vehicles."<sup>5831</sup> He furthermore implored the country parties to comply with the environmental commitments made under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.<sup>5832</sup>

India has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions though the Provision of Compensatory Afforestation, the US-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force and commitment to transitioning from HCFC Phase-Out Management Plan. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its hosting of the UN Convention on Desertification, its Forest Plus 2.0 (Forest for Water and Prosperity) program, and its participation in the BASIC group and call for funding for the Green Climate Fund.

Thus, India receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Margaret de Leon*

### **Indonesia: 0**

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 16 July 2019, President Joko Widodo urged cities across the country to set up waste-to-energy plants this year to tackle the country's waste problem. The goal is to establish 12 waste-to-energy

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<sup>5828</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>5829</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>5830</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>5831</sup> July Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DOC081420-08142020144851.pdf>

<sup>5832</sup> July Highlights of the Achievements and Activities of the Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (New Delhi) 13 August 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://moef.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/DOC081420-08142020144851.pdf>

power plants by 2022 in order to create up to 234 megawatts of electricity using 16,000 tons of waste a day.<sup>5833</sup>

On 8 August 2019, President Widodo issued a permanent moratorium on new forest clearance for activities such as palm plantations and logging. The moratorium aims to reduce emissions from fires caused by deforestation.<sup>5834</sup>

On 19 August 2019, President Widodo signed a presidential decree covering the regulation of electric vehicles. The goal is to increase demand for electric vehicles through implementing fiscal and tax incentives for the industry.<sup>5835</sup>

On 9 October 2019, the government launched an agency to manage funds for climate change management. The IDR2 trillion of initial funds is planned to start its operations by 1 January 2020 and aims to restore environmental damage and educate communities to prevent further damage.<sup>5836</sup>

On 23 December 2019, the government launched biodiesel containing 30 per cent palm-based fuel (B30), the highest mandatory mix in the world. The goal is to reduce carbon emissions and the country's reliance on oil imports.<sup>5837</sup>

On 27 August 2020, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister, announced that the country had received a USD103.8 million cash injection from the United Nation's Green Climate Fund. The goal is to support the country to reduce carbon emissions and prevent deforestation by controlling forest fires.<sup>5838</sup>

Indonesia has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has complied with its commitment to foster low emissions through its moratorium on new forest clearing, promotion of electric vehicles and launch of palm-based fuel. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through the launch of its climate change management agency. However, it falls short of the "wide range" threshold.

Thus, Indonesia has received a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dimas Bimo Radhityo*

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<sup>5833</sup> Indonesian president tells cities to build waste-to-energy plants, Cabinet Secretariat (Jakarta) 16 July 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-environment-energy/indonesian-president-tells-cities-to-build-waste-to-energy-plants-idUSKCN1UB1CG>

<sup>5834</sup> Indonesia president makes moratorium on forest clearance permanent, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Forestry and Environment (Jakarta) 8 August 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-environment-forest-idUSKCN1UY14P>

<sup>5835</sup> Jokowi signs electric vehicle regulation, President Joko Widodo (Jakarta) 9 August 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/08/09/jokowi-signs-electric-vehicle-regulation.html>

<sup>5836</sup> Indonesia launches agency to manage environment funds, Ruandha Agung Sugardiman, director general of climate change at the Forestry and Environment Ministry (Jakarta) 9 October 2019. Access Date: 5 February 2020. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/indonesia-launch-agency-manage-environment-climate-change-funds-11985144>

<sup>5837</sup> Indonesia launches B30 biodiesel to cut costs, boost palm oil, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources (Jakarta) 23 December 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-biodiesel/indonesia-launches-b30-biodiesel-to-cut-costs-boost-palm-oil-idUSKBN1YR0D2>

<sup>5838</sup> Indonesia gets U.N. funds to fight climate change, deforestation, Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Forestry and Environment (Jakarta) 27 August 2020. Access Date: 27 September 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-indonesia-environment-idUSKBN25N1BP>



### **Italy: +1**

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 8 July 2019, Minister of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea Sergio Costa and Minister of Economic Development Luigi Di Maio signed the FER1 decree, which aims to support the production of energy from renewable sources.<sup>5839</sup> The provision will allow the construction of plants for a total capacity of approximately 8,000 MW, with an increase in production from renewable sources of approximately 12 billion KW and with activated investments estimated to be in the order of EUR10 billion.<sup>5840</sup>

On 23 July 2019, the Ministers for European Affairs signed a decree allowing new sanctions on maritime transport. In addition to sanctions, the new provisions include penalties for violating the decree. The aim of this policy is to reduce the level of carbon emissions.<sup>5841</sup>

On 1 August 2019, a protocol of understanding was signed by Minister Costa and Rector of Sapienza Eugenio Gaudio. The protocol is aimed at promoting awareness on issues related to “sustainable development and the fair and sustainable well-being.”<sup>5842</sup> This includes energy efficiency, conversion to renewable energies and reduction of environmental impact.<sup>5843</sup>

On 10 October 2019, Minister Costa signed the agreement for the protection of the Sarno river, as it is “considered to be one of the most polluted sites in Europe.” The agreement is aimed at protecting the water resource and mitigating the hydrogeological risk.<sup>5844</sup>

On 10 October 2019, the Council of Ministers approved the climate decree, inaugurating the Green New Deal. The primary innovations included in the decree are the allocation of EUR255 million for European cities affected by poor air quality, the allocation of EUR30 million for replanting trees, and the allocation of EUR20 million for establishing school transportation to elementary and middle schools. The aim of this decree is to build a solid environmental framework in Italy.<sup>5845</sup>

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<sup>5839</sup> Renewables, Di Maio and Cost Sign the FER1 Decree, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/rinnovabili-di-maio-e-costa-firmano-il-decreto-fer1>

<sup>5840</sup> Renewables, Di Maio and Cost Sign the FER1 Decree, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 8 July 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/rinnovabili-di-maio-e-costa-firmano-il-decreto-fer1>

<sup>5841</sup> Climate: Legislative Decree Sanctions on Maritime Transport Emissions Approved, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 23 July 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020.

<sup>5842</sup> A Green Alliance Between the Ministry of the Environment and La Sapienza for the Objective of the 2013 Agenda, Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/un-alleanza-verde-tra-ministero-dell-ambiente-e-la-sapienza-gli-obiettivi-dell-agenda-2>

<sup>5843</sup> A Green Alliance Between the Ministry of the Environment and La Sapienza for the Objective of the 2013 Agenda, Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 1 August 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/un-alleanza-verde-tra-ministero-dell-ambiente-e-la-sapienza-gli-obiettivi-dell-agenda-2>

<sup>5844</sup> Sarno River: Agreement Signed for Operational Collaboration between the District Basin Authority and the Carabinieri Command for Environmental protection, Ministry of the Environment and the Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/fiume-sarno-siglato-accordo-di-collaborazione-operativa-tra-autorita-di-bacino>

<sup>5845</sup> Climate: The Costa Decree Approved in the CDM, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 10 October 2019. Access Date: 1 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/clima-approvato-cdm-il-decreto-costa>

On 22 October 2019, Minister Costa called for the Ligurian and Piedmontese regions to receive EUR10 million and EUR35 million respectively to “open construction sites for the safety of the most vulnerable areas” as part of a broader initiative called the “Cantieri Ambiente” bill which has a total allotment of EUR6.5 billion.<sup>5846</sup>

On 22 November 2019, the Climate Decree was passed and “deemed urgent and necessary.”<sup>5847</sup> The Climate Decree aims to reduce emissions and take measures at mitigating climate change. The main points of the decree are as follows: up to EUR225 million will be used to increase environmentally sustainable services in regions with air quality infringement; EUR40 million will go towards modernization of public transport lanes; EUR20 million will be allocated for electric vehicles for elementary and middle schools; EUR30 million will be dedicated to reforestation in urban communities to absorb carbon dioxide; the creation of environmental economic zones; halting environmental infringement in the form of landfills and sewage; implementation of the Green Italy Program where EUR3 million will be used to carry out “innovative and effective green conversion projects” each year from 2020, 2021 and 2022; transparency of environmental data such as air quality; information campaigns will receive EUR2 million to encourage knowledge and green initiatives; EUR2 million for businesses that collect plastic bottles; EUR6 million for green helmet, international collaboration programs aimed at safeguarding national and internationally protected areas; changing the former Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning into the Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development to reach wider areas of environmentalism; EUR3 million for reforestation and hydrogeological protection; create an air quality fund; and lastly, inter-ministerial table for climate emergency that would allow for a national program for fighting climate change and enhancing air quality.<sup>5848</sup>

On 4 December 2019, the Conference of States approved the Naples Declaration, which commits all 21 states in the Mediterranean basin, together with the European Union, to work together in the coming years on a series of ambitious goals regarding climate change. Among many important points in the Declaration are provisions for the elimination of waste and the protection of biodiversity, and new strategies for combatting climate change regionally.<sup>5849</sup>

On 12 December 2019, Minister Costa stated it will partner alongside Africa to find “innovative ways of creating resilient environments ... resilience and adaptation, as well as the energy transition towards renewable energy sources.”<sup>5850</sup> This will be achieved through the continuation of their

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<sup>5846</sup> Dissesto, Min. Costa: “Protecting the Territory can no Longer be Postponed, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/dissesto-min-costa-tutelare-il-territorio-non-e-piu-rinviabile>

<sup>5847</sup> Climate Decree, An Important First Step in Tackling Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 22 November 2019, Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/decreto-clima-un-primo-importante-passo-contrastare-i-cambiamenti-climatici>

<sup>5848</sup> Climate Decree, An Important First Step in Tackling Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 22 November 2019, Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/decreto-clima-un-primo-importante-passo-contrastare-i-cambiamenti-climatici>

<sup>5849</sup> COP21 MED, the Naples Declaration Approved, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 4 December 2019. Access Date: 3 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/cop-21-med-approvata-la-dichiarazione-di-napoli>

<sup>5850</sup> COP25: Costa, Alongside Africa, Alongside the Planet, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/cop25-costa-al-fianco-dell-africa-al-fianco-del-pianeta>

projects in 18 African countries, with a focus on agriculture, sustainable water management, use of renewables, environmental technology and capacity building.<sup>5851</sup>

On 2 January 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announce it will allocate EUR2 million for four marine protected areas in Capri, Capo Spartivento and Isola San Pietro in Sardinia and the coast of Maratea in Basilicata.<sup>5852</sup> The purpose of this is to create eco-sustainable development.<sup>5853</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the Ministry of the Environment registered a decree with the Court of Auditors which establishes a financing program aimed at improving air quality and providing anti-smog interventions. The decree allocates EUR180 million.<sup>5854</sup>

On 7 February 2020, the Ministry of the Environment announced 62 ongoing projects that aim to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. The projects are funded EUR89 million coming from the Development and Cohesion Fund.<sup>5855</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced interventions for 81 municipalities to implement sustainable methods of transportation, including the use of bicycles and carpooling. The interventions are financed by the Ministry of Environment and local authorities and aim at “reduc[ing] greenhouse gas emissions responsible for climate change.”<sup>5856</sup>

On 24 April 2020, the Ministry of the Environment committed to allocating over EUR100 million for interventions aimed at improving the water quality throughout the country. The objective of the Environmental Operational Plan is to “[protect] the environment and [promote] the efficient use of resources” by monitoring and maintaining the quality of the water.<sup>5857</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the Ministry of the Environment allocated EUR100 million towards projects on sustainability to be implemented in National Parks. Among other goals, the projects are specifically

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<sup>5851</sup> COP25: Costa, Alongside Africa, Alongside the Planet, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 2 December 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/cop25-costa-al-fianco-dell-africa-al-fianco-del-pianeta>

<sup>5852</sup> Environment: Costa, 2 Million Euros for the New Four Marine Protected Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-costa-2-milioni-di-euro-le-nuove-quattro-aree-marine-protette>

<sup>5853</sup> Environment: Costa, 2 Million Euros for the New Four Marine Protected Areas, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 2 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-costa-2-milioni-di-euro-le-nuove-quattro-aree-marine-protette>

<sup>5854</sup> Smog, 180 Million from the Ministry of the Environment to the Regions of the Padano Basin, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 10 February 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/smog-dal-ministero-ambiente-assegnati-180-milioni-alle-regioni-del-bacino-padano>

<sup>5855</sup> Environment, 62 Energy Efficient Projects are Underway for an Investment of 89 Million Euros, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 7 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/ambiente-al-62-progetti-l-efficienza-energetica-un-investimento-di-89-milioni-di-euro>

<sup>5856</sup> Sustainable Home-School Home-Work Mobility, 164 Million for 81 Municipalities, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/mobilita-sostenibile-casa-scuola-casa-lavoro-164-milioni-81-comuni>

<sup>5857</sup> Water: Costs Over 100 Million Euros for Improving the Quality of Water Bodies, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 24 April 2020. Access Date: July 10 2020. <https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/acqua-costa-oltre-100-milioni-di-euro-il-miglioramento-della-qualita-dei-corpi-idrici>

aimed at interventions for adaptation to climate change, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and infrastructure, forest management and prevention of forest fires.<sup>5858</sup>

On 4 September 2020, the Ministry of the Environment approved the Operational Project for the Remediation and Permanent Safety of the Caffaro Brescia plant. This project works towards environmental remediation and rehabilitation of the region, following contamination.<sup>5859</sup>

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development through its Climate Decree, reduction of marine transport emissions and air pollution, and the Development and Cohesion Fund's carbon dioxide reduction projects. Further it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its hydrogeological risk mitigation efforts, the Cantiere Ambiente program, and initiatives with Africa.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Jenna Im*

### **Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 12 September 2019, Minister of Environment Shinjiro Koizumi called for the country's nuclear reactors to be scrapped. The goal is to prevent repeats of nuclear disasters and help reduce its carbon emissions.<sup>5860</sup>

On 25 September 2019, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Isshu Sugawara announced that it has received support from 30 countries for a plan to set up 10,000 hydrogen refueling stations worldwide within 10 years. The goal is to push for the country's target in being carbon-neutral soon after 2050.<sup>5861</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the government, together with the government of Argentina, signed a memorandum of cooperation to boost the development of hydrogen as a pollution-free energy source during the Second Hydrogen Energy Ministerial Meeting. The meeting seeks to strengthen collaboration in promoting hydrogen as an alternative energy source, and the memorandum will promote investments in the sustainable energy field.<sup>5862</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Australia communicated the take-off of its Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project with Japan. The project has been devised in order to provide a secure and clean source of

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<sup>5858</sup> Parks for the Climate, from Minambiente 100 Million for Sustainable Projects, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome) 15 July 2020. Access Date: August 1 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/parchi-il-clima-da-minambiente-100-mlioni-progetti-sostenibili>

<sup>5859</sup> Sin Di Brescia: The Ministry of the Environment Approves the Operational Project, Ministry of the Environment and Protection of the Territory and the Sea (Rome), 4 September 2020. Access Date: 7 September 2020.

<https://www.minambiente.it/comunicati/sin-di-brescia-il-ministero-dell-ambiente-approva-il-progetto-operativo>

<sup>5860</sup> Japan should scrap nuclear reactors after Fukushima, says new environment minister, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of environment (Tokyo) 12 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/sep/12/japan-should-scrap-nuclear-reactors-after-fukushima-says-new-environment-minister>

<sup>5861</sup> Japan draws support for global hydrogen proposals, including refueling stations, Isshu Sugawara, Minister of economy, trade and industry (Tokyo) 25 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2019.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-hydrogen/japan-draws-support-for-global-hydrogen-proposals-including-refueling-stations-idUSKBN1WA19R>

<sup>5862</sup> Argentina and Japan to work together in development of hydrogen as clean fuel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship (Buenos Aires) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<https://www.cancilleria.gob.ar/en/announcements/news/argentina-and-japan-work-together-development-hydrogen-clean-fuel>

energy by improving systems that convert synthetic gas, in the form of carbon monoxide, into hydrogen.<sup>5863</sup> Although still in its initial stages, the project has already presented over AUS70 million in public funding towards its aim to establish renewable hydrogen into a residential gas grid.<sup>5864</sup>

On 30 June 2020, Japan made an announcement regarding the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).<sup>5865</sup> It intends to “effectively promoting coordinated measures for climate change and DRR,” through four avenues.<sup>5866</sup> Firstly, there is a recognition that climate action and DRR are interrelated and both should be incorporated into policymaking.<sup>5867</sup> Secondly, there needs to be “comprehensive measures for a decarbonized and highly disaster-resilient society.”<sup>5868</sup> Thirdly, fostering awareness, preparedness and cooperation within communities.<sup>5869</sup> Fourth, promoting international cooperation.<sup>5870</sup>

On 3 September 2020, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of Environment, hosted a ministerial meeting with ministers and representatives from more than 65 countries as well as non-state stakeholders.<sup>5871</sup> The goal is to open up a discussion platform for sustainable recovery from COVID-19.<sup>5872</sup> The meeting concentrated on “the role of climate, financial, and environmental protection policies in fostering transition towards decarbonization, circular economy, and decentralization.”<sup>5873</sup> In order to do this, there will be a push towards green jobs, ending fossil fuel subsidies and factoring in climate risk.<sup>5874</sup>

On 9 October 2020, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry announced it will be partnering with Keidanren and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization for the “Zero-Emission Challenge” in order to help investors find companies focused on decarbonization

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<sup>5863</sup> Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Pilot Project, Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources (Canberra) 25 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.industry.gov.au/funding-and-incentives/hydrogen-energy-supply-chain-pilot-project>

<sup>5864</sup> Australia’s renewable hydrogen industry prepares for take off, ArenaWire (Canberra) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://arena.gov.au/blog/australias-renewable-hydrogen-industry-prepares-for-take-off/>

<sup>5865</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5866</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5867</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5868</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5869</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5870</sup> Announcement of the Joint Message on the Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction, Ministry of the Environment (Tokyo) 30 June 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.env.go.jp/en/headline/2460.html>

<sup>5871</sup> Ministerial Launches “Platform for Redesign” to Overcome Climate Change, COVID-19, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of environment (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date 30 September 2020. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-launches-platform-for-redesign-to-overcome-climate-change-covid-19/>

<sup>5872</sup> Ministerial Launches “Platform for Redesign” to Overcome Climate Change, COVID-19, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of environment (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date 30 September 2020. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-launches-platform-for-redesign-to-overcome-climate-change-covid-19/>

<sup>5873</sup> Ministerial Launches “Platform for Redesign” to Overcome Climate Change, COVID-19, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of environment (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date 30 September 2020. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-launches-platform-for-redesign-to-overcome-climate-change-covid-19/>

<sup>5874</sup> Ministerial Launches “Platform for Redesign” to Overcome Climate Change, COVID-19, Shinjiro Koizumi, Minister of environment (Tokyo) 3 September 2020. Access Date 30 September 2020. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/ministerial-launches-platform-for-redesign-to-overcome-climate-change-covid-19/>

innovation.<sup>5875</sup> The goal is to connect investors, experts and stakeholders with 320 companies who have agreed to participate in the Zero-Emission Challenge.<sup>5876</sup>

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in wide range of areas for low emissions by moving away from nuclear energy, exploring hydrogen as an alternative and for its participation in the Hydrogen Energy Supply Chain Project. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its Strategy for Enhancing Synergy between Climate Action and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Era of Climate Crisis: Shifting from Restoring Status Quo to “Adaptive Recovery.” However, it falls short of the “wide range” threshold.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Dimas Bimo Radbityo*

### **Korea: +1**

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 3 September 2019, the government decided to provide USD100,000 in humanitarian aid to Bolivia, which is severely affected by wildfires. The fund will be used for initial response, such as fire extinguishing.<sup>5877</sup>

On 6 September 2019, the government decided to provide USD200,000 in humanitarian assistance to the Bahamas, which was severely damaged by the Hurricane Dorian. The aid aims to contribute to the recovery of the Bahamas and the stabilization of their lives.<sup>5878</sup>

On 16 September 2019, the Korea Water Resources Corporation provided international training for flood prediction for Indonesia’s Chitarum River flood. It contains the training about water environment characteristics of the Chitarum River area, water management policies and systems, management of water in response to climate change.<sup>5879</sup> The corporation aims to actively promote

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<sup>5875</sup> Supporting Companies in Efforts towards a Decarbonized Society, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1009\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1009_001.html)

<sup>5876</sup> Supporting Companies in Efforts towards a Decarbonized Society, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (Tokyo) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. [https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1009\\_001.html](https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2020/1009_001.html)

<sup>5877</sup> US \$ 100,000 Humanitarian Assistance to Support Bolivian Wildfires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 3 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=369505&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=51](http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=369505&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=51)

<sup>5878</sup> The Korean Government Declares US \$ 200,000 Humanitarian Assistance in Hurricane Damaged Bahamas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 6 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. [http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=369513&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=50](http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=369513&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=50)

<sup>5879</sup> Transfer of Korean Water disaster response technology to Indonesia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 16 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=530&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1037280&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

water-related international training so that it can contribute to solving global water problems and developing water management capabilities.<sup>5880</sup>

On 27 September 2019, the government decided to provide USD500,000 in additional humanitarian assistance to Mozambique, which was severely damaged by cyclones in March and April. The aid will include a variety of activities such as rehabilitation and recovery of livelihoods.<sup>5881</sup>

On 15 October 2019, the Korea Water Resources Corporation, under the Ministry of Environment, launched a program to strengthen the water resources development and management capacity for 15 officials from eight Southeast Asian countries. As the risk of water, disasters are increasing especially in the Southeast Asia region, and the program aims to contribute to improvements in overall water management in those countries.<sup>5882</sup>

On 23 October 2019, the National Institute of Environmental Research of the Ministry of Environment obtained an international patent registration certificate from the US and Swiss patent authorities for the technology. The technology automatically analyzes and trace organic pollutants in flowing water in real-time. This technology can be used in conjunction with a chemical injection system for effective pollutant treatment and cost reduction in water treatment plants.<sup>5883</sup>

On 6 November 2019, the Ministry of Environment noticed that it would designate areas with high air pollution or pollutants as air management zones to implement dust management that suits each zone. It intends to manage pollutants from cars and living and based on the details from areas, and it aims to reduce pollutant emissions up to 40 per cent by 2024.<sup>5884</sup>

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<sup>5880</sup> Transfer of Korean Water disaster response technology to Indonesia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 16 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=530&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1037280&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5881</sup> The Korean Government Declares US \$ 500,000 Additional Humanitarian Assistance to Cyclone Damage, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=369579&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=p=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=43](http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=369579&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=43)

<sup>5882</sup> Government officials in eight Southeast Asian countries receive water management training in Korea, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 14 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=450&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1064480&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5883</sup> Automatic analysis of water pollutants, internationally recognized, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 30 October 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=370&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1070150&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5884</sup> Expanding the atmospheric management area nationwide and reducing fine dust with customized management, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=330&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1082980&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

On 12 November 2019, the government decided to provide USD100,000 humanitarian assistance to the Central African Republic. The region has been affected by massive flooding since October, and the flood is estimated to have affected 1 million people.<sup>5885</sup>

On 29 November 2019, the Ministry of Environment implemented the Chemical Emission Reduction System, which will require companies to submit the emission reduction plans every five years. It aims to lead companies to reduce their hazardous chemicals voluntarily.<sup>5886</sup>

On 27 January 2020, the government decided to provide USD1 million humanitarian assistance through the Australian Red Cross to comfort Australian people. It will be used for early restoration assistance. The government expects that such a measure could strengthen cooperation between the Australian government.<sup>5887</sup>

On 29 January 2020, the Ministry of Environment promulgated amendments to the Green Product Purchasing Act. Green products are the products that minimize the use of energy and resources, and the greenhouse gas generation. Under the amendment, “low carbon certified products” are also included in green products. It aims to contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases by promoting the purchase of green products.<sup>5888</sup>

On 16 February 2020, the Korea Environment Corporation, affiliated institution of the Ministry of Environment, led social contribution activities by donating employees’ clothes and old uniforms overseas in order to promote resource circulation through sharing. Both institutions gathered total 5,662 items and they will be sent to the donating institution “Ot-Can” and it will send it to various nations based on the climate and age. The intention is to reuse clothes and thereby reduce carbon emissions involved in the production of articles of clothing.<sup>5889</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the Ministry of Environment announced its support for the Task force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD).<sup>5890</sup> TCFD is a consultative body developed to help G20

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<sup>5885</sup> The Korean Government Makes US \$ 100,000 Humanitarian Assistance to Support Flood Damage in Central African Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 12 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=369742&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=26](http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=369742&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=26)

<sup>5886</sup> Full-fledged voluntary reduction efforts for chemical emissions, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=230&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1097940&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5887</sup> Dispatch government delegation to discuss humanitarian assistance and early recovery measures for Australia, which was heavily damaged by forest fires, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Seoul) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

[http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m\\_4080/view.do?seq=369963&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi\\_itm\\_seq=0&itm\\_seq\\_1=0&itm\\_seq\\_2=0&company\\_cd=&company\\_nm=&page=3](http://www.mofa.go.kr/www/brd/m_4080/view.do?seq=369963&srchFr=&srchTo=&srchWord=&srchTp=&multi_itm_seq=0&itm_seq_1=0&itm_seq_2=0&company_cd=&company_nm=&page=3)

<sup>5888</sup> Green Products Include Low Carbon Products...Expected to be activated by obligatory purchasing, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=30&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=title&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&condition.fromDate=2019-06-29&condition.toDate=2020-02-11&boardId=1221920&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5889</sup> Virtuous cycle of resources through sharing, donating clothing to developing countries, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 16 February 2020. Access Date: 21 March 21, 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=80&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1310900&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5890</sup> The Ministry of Environment declares that it is the first government agency to support the role of green finance to manage the climate crisis, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=210&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1374140&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>



members decide green financial investment methods to “increase resilience against external shock, such as asset diversification, in response to climate and environment risk.”<sup>5891</sup>

On 5 June 2020, the Ministry of Environment, affiliated with the Korea Water Resources Corporation, introduced hydrothermal energy to public development projects in Gyeonggi Province.<sup>5892</sup> Gyeonggi-do signed an agreement to use hydrothermal energy in an industrial complex.<sup>5893</sup> This shift of energy can improve environment since it can save approximately 89,000 MWh of energy and reduce greenhouse gas by 220,000 tons yearly.<sup>5894</sup>

On 12 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment signed a written memorandum about the promotion of research cooperation projects to improve water security of Asian countries with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Asian Water Commission.<sup>5895</sup> This memorandum will allow the Ministry of Environment and the Asian Water Commission will customize water management follow-up projects for each country through consultation of developing countries and support technical improvement measures.<sup>5896</sup>

On 17 July 2020, the Ministry of Environment, together with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, decided to construct eco-friendly offshore wind farm in in Jeonbuk.<sup>5897</sup> The offshore wind farm will supply eco-friendly electricity to 2.24 million households.<sup>5898</sup>

Korea has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its Chemical Emissions Reductions System, its amendments to the Green Product Purchasing Act to include low-carbon certified products and lastly, its aims to reduce emissions by up to 40 per cent in high air polluted regions. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range

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<sup>5891</sup> The Ministry of Environment declares that it is the first government agency to support the role of green finance to manage the climate crisis, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 28 May 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=210&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1374140&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5892</sup> (Reference) Eco-friendly hydrothermal energy, expanded to Gyeonggi-do public development project, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=180&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1376080&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5893</sup> (Reference) Eco-friendly hydrothermal energy, expanded to Gyeonggi-do public development project, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=180&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1376080&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5894</sup> (Reference) Eco-friendly hydrothermal energy, expanded to Gyeonggi-do public development project, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 5 June 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=180&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1376080&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5895</sup> Launch of international research cooperation for water security in Asia, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 12 July 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=60&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1384440&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5896</sup> Launch of international research cooperation for water security in Asia, Ministry of Environment (Seoul) 12 July 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=60&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1384440&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5897</sup> (Co-Reference) Full-scale promotion of offshore wind power (2.4GW) in the southwestern region of Jeollabuk-do, Ministry of environment (Seoul) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=40&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1385760&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

<sup>5898</sup> (Co-Reference) Full-scale promotion of offshore wind power (2.4GW) in the southwestern region of Jeollabuk-do, Ministry of environment (Seoul) 17 July 2020. Access Date: 30 July 2020.

<http://me.go.kr/home/web/board/read.do?pagerOffset=40&maxPageItems=10&maxIndexPages=10&searchKey=&searchValue=&menuId=286&orgCd=&boardId=1385760&boardMasterId=1&boardCategoryId=&decorator=>

of areas for resilient development through the Korean Water Resources Corporation's flood prediction training, and its strengthening of water resource development and restoration and humanitarian efforts in various countries.

Thus, Korea receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Eunbi Lee*

### **Mexico: 0**

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development

On 14 June 2019, Mexico's Energy Ministry launched the National Electricity System Development Plan, declaring the installation of 18,880 MW by the Federal Electricity Commission between 2019 and 2025. The goal is to add an expected MV 29,000 over the next 15 years, generated by combined cycle plans that burn natural gas and reuse the steam generated to produce electricity.<sup>5899</sup>

On 23 September 2019, President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador announced plans for government investment in oil refineries, noting that the government already invested 12 billion pesos toward revamping oil production. The goal is to “wean” Mexico off its dependency on foreign energy supplies, as well as fuel economic development through increased oil production.<sup>5900</sup>

On 28 October 2019, Mexico's government announced it would expand the rules of its “clean energy certificates” (CEL) program to make them available to older hydroelectric plants operated by state utility company CFE. Previously applying only to new projects, the goal is to sell CEL-certified energy to big companies that are required to obtain a percentage of their electricity from clean sources.<sup>5901</sup>

On 18 November 2019, the government changed rules for clean energy credits, allowing aging hydroelectric dams operated by Mexico's state-owned utility to qualify. Initially intended for new wind and solar farms, the goal is to “set a level playing field by including hydroelectric power.”<sup>5902</sup>

On 10 December 2019, the government published a report that quantifies co-benefits from implementing the climate agenda in coordination with the sustainable development agenda in the country. Titled Crunching Numbers: Quantifying the Sustainable Development Co-benefits of Mexico's Climate Commitments, the report argues that climate action and development policies should be harmonized and integrated because they “reinforce each other and achieve more together.”<sup>5903</sup>

On 19 December 2019, Jalisco Governor Alfaro rejected private and federal government plans to build power plants that would run on non-renewable energy sources. In rejecting construction of at

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<sup>5899</sup> AMLO's return to oil, Dialogo Chino (Mexico). 11 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020.

<https://dialogochino.net/28818-amlos-return-to-oil/>

<sup>5900</sup> Amid Climate Worries, Mexico Doubles Down on Fossil Fuels, Reuters (Mexico City). 1 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-climate-change-oil-feature-trf/amid-climate-worries-mexico-doubles-down-on-fossil-fuels-idUSKBN1XB4UR>

<sup>5901</sup> Amid Climate Worries, Mexico Doubles Down on Fossil Fuels, Reuters (Mexico City). 1 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mexico-climate-change-oil-feature-trf/amid-climate-worries-mexico-doubles-down-on-fossil-fuels-idUSKBN1XB4UR>

<sup>5902</sup> Mexico's curious clean-energy credit use deters renewable energy development, Bloomberg (Mexico City) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.worldoil.com/news/2019/11/18/mexico-s-curious-clean-energy-credit-use-deters-renewable-energy-development>

<sup>5903</sup> Development Co-benefits of Climate Action, SDG Knowledge Hub. 10 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/mexico-quantifies-development-co-benefits-of-climate-action/>

USD759 million thermal power station by the Spanish firm Fistera, the goal is to uphold his government's commitment to "tackle climate change."<sup>5904</sup>

On 22 December 2019, the Federal Electricity Commission proposed to cancel some contracts and eliminate discounts on transmission costs for power generators to use its network. The goal is to increase transmission costs for private companies, cut subsidies, and give the CFE preference over private generation when electricity is dispatched into the national grid.<sup>5905,5906</sup>

On 1 January 2020 Mexico reformed the General Law on Climate Change to establish an emission trading system, a cap-and-trade scheme, pilot program for low-carbon development.<sup>5907</sup>

On 4 February 2020, Mexico City's solar initiative "Ciudad Solar" generated around 140,000 kWh of clean power while avoiding the emission of 75 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. The goal is to support the installation of rooftop PV and other clean power schemes that will add up to MV 350 of green capacity in the 2019 to 2024 period.<sup>5908</sup>

Mexico has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its National Electricity System Development Plan, and by investing in the Ciudad Solar initiative and thermal power stations. However, Mexico has not taken measures to foster resilient development.

Thus, Mexico receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan*

## **Russia: 0**

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 17 July 2019, the Ministry of Natural Resources excluded the protection zone of Medusa Bay cluster from the borders of the Great Arctic Reserve to allow the Arctic Mining Company under Vostok Coal to proceed with coal-mining plans in the conservation zone. The goal is to increase shipments through the Northern Sea Route.<sup>5909</sup>

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<sup>5904</sup> State, municipality say no to electrical generation plants running on fossil fuels, Mexico News Daily (Mexico City) 19 December 2019. Date Accessed: 9 February 2020. <https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/state-municipality-say-no-to-electrical-generation-plants/>

<sup>5905</sup> Latin America's new leftists are choosing oil despite renewables boom, Quartz.5 February 2019. Access Date:9 February 2020. <https://qz.com/1793342/latin-americas-new-leftist-leaders-backtrack-on-the-environment/>

<sup>5906</sup> Mexico Quantifies Mexico's Renewable Power Suppliers Face Risks Under Grid Proposal, Bloomberg (Mexico City) 22 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-12-22/mexico-s-cfe-mulls-cutting-discounts-in-blow-to-renewable-sector>

<sup>5907</sup> Programa de Prueba del Sistema de Comercio de Emisiones, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 1 January 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.gob.mx/semarnat/acciones-y-programas/programa-de-prueba-del-sistema-de-comercio-de-emisiones-179414>.

<sup>5908</sup> Mexico City kicks off Ciudad Solar programme with first PV arrays, RenewablesNow (Mexico City) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://renewablesnow.com/news/mexico-city-kicks-off-ciudad-solar-programme-with-first-pv-arrays-685973/>

<sup>5909</sup> The Ministry of Natural Resources has changed the boundaries of the Arctic reserve for Bosov's company, RBC Daily (Moscow), 18 July 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.rbc.ru/business/19/07/2019/5d31b3ff9a7947f447681277>

On 26 August 2019, President Vladimir Putin announced a series of new coal projects including extraction plans in Taymyr Peninsula of more than 25 million tons of coal per year. The goal is to reach shipping target on the Arctic route for 80 million tons per year by 2024.<sup>5910</sup>

On 20 September 2019, the Federal Service for Supervision of Natural Resources signed a Cooperation Agreement with the electric power distribution company PJSC “Quadra — Power Generation” aimed at “implementing a comprehensive plan of measures to reduce emissions into the air in Lipetsk.”<sup>5911</sup> The goal is to fulfill the objective of “Clean Air” under the Russia’s decree “On national goals and strategic objectives of the development of the Russian Federation for the period until 2024.”<sup>5912</sup>

On 21 September 2019, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a government resolution signifying the Russian government’s official acceptance of the 2015 Paris Agreement to fight climate change. This accord stated that Russia will not technically ratify the accord but will honour its commitments. The Paris Agreement aims to contain greenhouse gas emission in Russia.<sup>5913</sup>

On 24 September 2019, the Murmansk windmill project awarded by the Russian government with a total cost frame of USD300 million commenced construction. This project will build 57 wind turbines and is projected to operate by 2021. This project contributes to Russia’s goal of producing 4.5 per cent of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.<sup>5914</sup>

On 18 October 2019, the Ministry of Economy submitted the final version of the draft law “On state regulation of greenhouse gas emissions” to the government.<sup>5915</sup> This bill abandoned the plan of implementing carbon emission quota, penalties for Russia’s largest polluters, a national carbon trading system and a national fund to support emission reduction. The bill retains a five-year monitoring program to measure company-level emissions. The deleted clauses were originally intended to cut carbon emissions.<sup>5916</sup>

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<sup>5910</sup> Russia Announces Plans for Coal-Digging Surge, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/08/26/russia-announces-plans-for-coal-digging-surge-a67011>

<sup>5911</sup> National project “Ecology” in the regions: Rosprirodnadzor and PJSC “Quadra — Power Generation” agreed to jointly implement a program to improve the environmental situation in Lipetsk, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/natsproekt\\_ekologiya\\_v\\_regionakh\\_rosprrodnadzor\\_i\\_pao\\_kvadra\\_dogovorilis\\_o\\_sovmestnoy\\_realizatsii\\_p/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/natsproekt_ekologiya_v_regionakh_rosprrodnadzor_i_pao_kvadra_dogovorilis_o_sovmestnoy_realizatsii_p/)

<sup>5912</sup> National project “Ecology” in the regions: Rosprirodnadzor and PJSC “Quadra — Power Generation” agreed to jointly implement a program to improve the environmental situation in Lipetsk, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 20 September 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/natsproekt\\_ekologiya\\_v\\_regionakh\\_rosprrodnadzor\\_i\\_pao\\_kvadra\\_dogovorilis\\_o\\_sovmestnoy\\_realizatsii\\_p/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/natsproekt_ekologiya_v_regionakh_rosprrodnadzor_i_pao_kvadra_dogovorilis_o_sovmestnoy_realizatsii_p/)

<sup>5913</sup> Russia Gives Definitive Approval to Paris Climate Accord, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/23/russia-gives-definitive-approval-to-paris-climate-accord-a67394>

<sup>5914</sup> Murmansk Launches Construction of Russia’s Largest Wind Power Park, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 24 September 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/09/24/murmansk-launches-construction-of-russias-largest-wind-power-park-a67406>

<sup>5915</sup> Carbon taxes go to emissions — Russia intends to fight global warming on a voluntary basis, Kommersant business daily (Moscow) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/4127113>

<sup>5916</sup> Russia Rejects Climate Change Plan After Business Uproar, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 17 October 2019. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/10/17/russia-rejects-climate-change-plan-after-business-uproar-a67780>

On 26 November 2019, Minister of Natural Resources of Russia Dmitry Kobylkin approved guidelines for “determining the background level of air pollution.”<sup>5917</sup> The background level of air pollution will be used to “determine the standard for permissible emissions of pollutants.”<sup>5918</sup>

On 28 November 2019, the Finance Ministry’s 2020 draft budget refused funding to natural gas company Novatek’s proposed projects including building a liquified natural gas terminal in Gydan and reloading terminals in Murmansk and Kamchatka.<sup>5919</sup>

On 6 December 2019, the government agreed with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on a new deal to stabilize oil prices. Under this deal, Russia would cut 70,000 barrels per day of oil export. A concession was made that gas condensate, which constituted 8 per cent of Russia’s quota will not be counted. The production cuts aim to support oil prices amidst falling demand.<sup>5920</sup>

On 19 December 2019, the Russian state company Rosatom announced that Russia’s 11th nuclear power plant Akademik Lomonosov has begun supplying electricity to the town of Pevek. The new nuclear powerplant will serve to replace a coal-fired plant and an aging nuclear plant in the Chukotka autonomous district.<sup>5921</sup>

On 4 January 2020, Russia published the National Action Plan for the First Phase of Adaptation to Climate Change for the period up to 2022.<sup>5922</sup> The national plan listed 30 economic and social measures including “upgrading the national climate monitoring system, calculating the risks of Russian products becoming unable to compete if they fail to meet new climate-related standards, new education materials to teach climate change in schools, dam building, shifting to drought-resistant crops and crisis-preparation such as offering emergency vaccinations or evacuations in case of a disaster.”<sup>5923</sup> The goal is to “minimize the vulnerability of the Russia’s population, economy and natural resources to climate change.”<sup>5924</sup>

On 20 January 2020, the Institute of Arctic Technologies of the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, with support from the Education and Science Ministry, Foreign Affairs Ministry, Ministry of the Far East and Arctic and the Yamet-Nenets district governor, proposed building an

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<sup>5917</sup> Approved guidelines for determining the background level of air pollution, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 26 November 2019. Access date: 22 March 2020.

[http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/utverzheny\\_metodicheskie\\_ukazaniya\\_po\\_opredeleniyu\\_fonovogo\\_urovnya\\_zagryazneniya\\_atmosfernogo\\_vozd/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/utverzheny_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_opredeleniyu_fonovogo_urovnya_zagryazneniya_atmosfernogo_vozd/)

<sup>5918</sup> Approved guidelines for determining the background level of air pollution, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 26 November 2019. Access date: 22 March 2020.

[http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/utverzheny\\_metodicheskie\\_ukazaniya\\_po\\_opredeleniyu\\_fonovogo\\_urovnya\\_zagryazneniya\\_atmosfernogo\\_vozd/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/utverzheny_metodicheskie_ukazaniya_po_opredeleniyu_fonovogo_urovnya_zagryazneniya_atmosfernogo_vozd/)

<sup>5919</sup> Russia Refuses State Funding for New Arctic Gas Projects, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 28 November 2019. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/11/28/russia-refuses-state-funding-arctic-gas-a68362>

<sup>5920</sup> Russia Wins Oil Concessions at Key OPEC+ Meeting, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 6 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/12/06/russia-wins-oil-concessions-at-key-opec-meeting-a68501>

<sup>5921</sup> World’s First Floating Nuclear Plant Goes Online in Russia — Rosatom, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 19 December 2019. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2019/12/19/worlds-first-floating-nuclear-plant-goes-online-in-russia-rosatom-a68683>

<sup>5922</sup> The Russian government takes a major step to join the world community in recognizing the threat of climate change. High North News (Bodo) 8 January 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

<https://www.highnorthnews.com/en/russia-unveils-climate-change-adaptation-plan>

<sup>5923</sup> Russia unveils plan to 'use the advantages' of climate change, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/russia-unveils-plan-to-use-the-advantages-of-climate-change/a-51894830>

<sup>5924</sup> Russia unveils plan to 'use the advantages' of climate change, Deutsche Welle (Berlin) 6 January 2020. Access Date: 7 February 2020. <https://www.dw.com/en/russia-unveils-plan-to-use-the-advantages-of-climate-change/a-51894830>

international climate research station in the Yaman-Nenets region of Siberia.<sup>5925</sup> This project is supported by the Arctic council and is expected to be completed by 2022. The goal is to support “joint research on climate change, ecology and environmental pollution.”<sup>5926</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the Federal Agency for Forestry “instructed regional ministry of natural resources of the Krasnodar Territory to strengthen campaigning aimed at preventing the burning of dry grass and compliance with fire safety rules in the forest.” The goal is to prevent forest fire in the Krasnodar Territory.<sup>5927</sup>

On 18 March 2020, Minister of Natural Resources and Ecology Dmitry Kobylkin and Governor of the Amur Region Vasily Orlov identified three priority projects “for bank protection in order to protect the population from flood waters” in the Amur Region.<sup>5928</sup>

On 19 March 2020, the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring introduced “continuous operation of local warning systems for emergency situations at hydraulic structures,” “round-the-clock monitoring of water management situation” and “information exchange with other operational services regarding water management situation.”<sup>5929</sup> The goal is to “regularly analyze the changes in the water management situation in the Russian Federation and organize preparations for the safe passage of floods in 2020.”<sup>5930</sup>

On 23 March 2020, the Ministry of Economic Development released a draft strategy for low-carbon development for the period up to 2050.<sup>5931</sup> The strategy aims at reducing carbon emissions by 30 per cent by 2030 compared to 1990 levels and is more ambitious than the current target of reducing carbon emissions by 25 per cent by 2030.<sup>5932</sup> The measures listed in this draft strategy include improving energy and resource efficiency and strengthening forest protection.<sup>5933</sup>

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<sup>5925</sup> Press conference “Arctic station on carbonless energy: a new international project”, Institute of Arctic Technologies MIPT (Moscow) 20 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 8, 2020. <http://arctic-mipt.com/>

<sup>5926</sup> Russia Steps into Oil-Free Future With New Arctic Research Station, The Moscow Times (Moscow) 31 January 2020. Access Date: 8 February 2020. <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/01/31/station-arctic-without-oil-a69105>

<sup>5927</sup> Forest departments of Trans-Baikal Territory, Jewish Autonomous Okrug and Krasnodar Territory are instructed to strengthen measures to control the forest fire situation, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020.

<sup>5928</sup> The Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia discussed measures to prevent flood situations in the Amur Region in 2020, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/v\\_minprirody\\_rossii\\_obsudili\\_mery\\_preduprezhdeniya\\_pavodkovykh\\_situatsiy\\_na\\_territorii\\_amurskoy\\_obla/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/v_minprirody_rossii_obsudili_mery_preduprezhdeniya_pavodkovykh_situatsiy_na_territorii_amurskoy_obla/)

<sup>5929</sup> On measures to ensure safe passage in 2020 in the territory of the Russian Federation and floods, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/o\\_merakh\\_po\\_obespecheniyu\\_bezopasnogo\\_propuska\\_v\\_2020\\_godu\\_na\\_territorii\\_rf\\_polovodya\\_i\\_pavodkov/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/o_merakh_po_obespecheniyu_bezopasnogo_propuska_v_2020_godu_na_territorii_rf_polovodya_i_pavodkov/)

<sup>5930</sup> On measures to ensure safe passage in 2020 in the territory of the Russian Federation and floods, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 19 March 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/o\\_merakh\\_po\\_obespecheniyu\\_bezopasnogo\\_propuska\\_v\\_2020\\_godu\\_na\\_territorii\\_rf\\_polovodya\\_i\\_pavodkov/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/o_merakh_po_obespecheniyu_bezopasnogo_propuska_v_2020_godu_na_territorii_rf_polovodya_i_pavodkov/)

<sup>5931</sup> Russia publishes baby-steps plan toward a low carbon future, Bellona (Oslo) 27 March 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://bellona.org/news/climate-change/2020-03-russia-publishes-baby-steps-plan-toward-a-low-carbon-future>

<sup>5932</sup> Russia’s Proposed Climate Plan Means Higher Emissions 2050, World Resources Institute (Washington) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/russia-s-proposed-climate-plan-means-higher-emissions-through-2050>

<sup>5933</sup> Russia’s Proposed Climate Plan Means Higher Emissions 2050, World Resources Institute (Washington) 13 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.wri.org/blog/2020/04/russia-s-proposed-climate-plan-means-higher-emissions-through-2050>

On 2 April 2020, Russia adopted the Energy Strategy of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2035.<sup>5934</sup> The Energy Strategy has five goals. The first is to expand the fuel and energy sector to meet the domestic socio-economic development of Russia.<sup>5935</sup> The second is to increase and diversify energy exports, with emphasis on increasing the export of liquified natural gas by 3.4 times by 2024.<sup>5936</sup> The third is to modernize and increase the availability of fuel and energy infrastructures.<sup>5937</sup> The fourth is achieving technological independence and increasing competitiveness of the fuel and energy sector using domestic technologies, equipment and materials.<sup>5938</sup> The fifth is to digitalize the fuel and energy sector.<sup>5939</sup> Associated actions include implementing 100 per cent smart electricity metering devices by 2035 and introducing intelligent control systems for power grids in all Russian regions.<sup>5940</sup> The strategy includes measures to reduce the negative environmental impacts of the fuel and energy complex.<sup>5941</sup> It entails the use of environmentally friendly, low-carbon and resource-saving technologies, the use of clean coal and the creation of monitoring and reporting system on greenhouse gas emission from energy facilities.<sup>5942</sup>

On 8 July 2020, Russia reached a decision with Botswana to draft a Memorandum of Understanding on the two countries' cooperation in the field of environmental protection.<sup>5943</sup> This Memorandum will establish the interaction of Russia and Botswana in protecting natural areas, adapting to climate change and adopting rational use of water and forest resources.<sup>5944</sup> The goal is to lay an international legal basis for environmental protection and rational use of natural resources for dialogue between the two countries.<sup>5945</sup>

On 15 July 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia and the Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring prepared a draft strategy for the development of

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<sup>5934</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5935</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5936</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5937</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5938</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5939</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5940</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5941</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5942</sup> Meeting of the Government, Russian Government (Moscow) 2 April 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <http://government.ru/news/39341/>

<sup>5943</sup> Russia and Botswana intend to lay the foundation for cooperation in the field of environmental protection, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_botsvana\\_namereny\\_zalozhit\\_osnovu\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_oblasti\\_okhrany\\_okrzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_botsvana_namereny_zalozhit_osnovu_sotrudnichestva_v_oblasti_okhrany_okrzhayushchey_sredy/)

<sup>5944</sup> Russia and Botswana intend to lay the foundation for cooperation in the field of environmental protection, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_botsvana\\_namereny\\_zalozhit\\_osnovu\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_oblasti\\_okhrany\\_okrzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_botsvana_namereny_zalozhit_osnovu_sotrudnichestva_v_oblasti_okhrany_okrzhayushchey_sredy/)

<sup>5945</sup> Russia and Botswana intend to lay the foundation for cooperation in the field of environmental protection, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 8 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya\\_i\\_botsvana\\_namereny\\_zalozhit\\_osnovu\\_sotrudnichestva\\_v\\_oblasti\\_okhrany\\_okrzhayushchey\\_sredy/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/rossiya_i_botsvana_namereny_zalozhit_osnovu_sotrudnichestva_v_oblasti_okhrany_okrzhayushchey_sredy/)

Russia's activities in Antarctica until 2030.<sup>5946</sup> The document envisages an increase in support for investment projects and equipment of services and residential complexes at Russian Stations in Antarctica.<sup>5947</sup> The goal is “to preserve Antarctica as a zone of peace, strengthen the economic and scientific potential of Russia and prevent natural and climate threats of a global nature.”<sup>5948</sup>

On 25 September 2020, the Climate Center of the Russian Federal Service for Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring “developed a report for planning adaptation measures to climate change in Russia.” The report formed regulatory frameworks, assessed the impact of current and forecasted climate changes and planned adaptation measures. The goal is to prepare Russia to adapt to the impacts of climate change.<sup>5949</sup>

On 6 October 2020, the Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia stated it will strengthen its environmental monitoring systems.<sup>5950</sup> The aim is to “enhance control and prompt response to possible changes in environment and the state of marine animals” after storms.<sup>5951</sup>

Russia has partially complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its upgrades on the national climate monitoring system under the National Action Plan for the First Phase of Adaptation to Climate Change, flood prevention projects and warning systems. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its official recognition of the 2015 Paris Agreement and its Energy Strategy. However, it falls short of the “wide range” threshold.

Thus, Russia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Wai Suet Gi Gi Chan*

### **Saudi Arabia: 0**

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 1 July 2019, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman stated that Saudi Arabia is “working to develop a comprehensive and integrated energy-saving system through energy efficient

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<sup>5946</sup> A draft Strategy for the development of the Russian Federation's activities in Antarctica until 2030 has been developed, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan\\_proekt\\_strategii\\_razvitiya\\_deyatelnosti\\_rf\\_v\\_antarktike\\_do\\_2030\\_goda/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan_proekt_strategii_razvitiya_deyatelnosti_rf_v_antarktike_do_2030_goda/)

<sup>5947</sup> A draft Strategy for the development of the Russian Federation's activities in Antarctica until 2030 has been developed, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan\\_proekt\\_strategii\\_razvitiya\\_deyatelnosti\\_rf\\_v\\_antarktike\\_do\\_2030\\_goda/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan_proekt_strategii_razvitiya_deyatelnosti_rf_v_antarktike_do_2030_goda/)

<sup>5948</sup> A draft Strategy for the development of the Russian Federation's activities in Antarctica until 2030 has been developed, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 15 July 2020. Access Date: 28 July 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan\\_proekt\\_strategii\\_razvitiya\\_deyatelnosti\\_rf\\_v\\_antarktike\\_do\\_2030\\_goda/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/razrabotan_proekt_strategii_razvitiya_deyatelnosti_rf_v_antarktike_do_2030_goda/)

<sup>5949</sup> Measures to adapt to climate change in Russia are planned, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 25 September 2020. Access Date: 30 September 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/planiruyutsya\\_mery\\_adaptatsii\\_k\\_izmeneniyam\\_klimata\\_v\\_rossii/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/planiruyutsya_mery_adaptatsii_k_izmeneniyam_klimata_v_rossii/)

<sup>5950</sup> The storm hit the Pacific coast of the South Kamchatka reserve: after the rampant elements, environmental monitoring will be strengthened, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/shtorm\\_obrushilsya\\_na\\_tikhoookanskoe\\_poberezhe\\_yuzhno\\_kamchatskogo\\_zakaznika\\_posle\\_razgula\\_stikhii\\_m/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/shtorm_obrushilsya_na_tikhoookanskoe_poberezhe_yuzhno_kamchatskogo_zakaznika_posle_razgula_stikhii_m/)

<sup>5951</sup> The storm hit the Pacific coast of the South Kamchatka reserve: after the rampant elements, environmental monitoring will be strengthened, Ministry of Natural Resources of Russia (Moscow) 6 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/shtorm\\_obrushilsya\\_na\\_tikhoookanskoe\\_poberezhe\\_yuzhno\\_kamchatskogo\\_zakaznika\\_posle\\_razgula\\_stikhii\\_m/](http://www.mnr.gov.ru/press/news/shtorm_obrushilsya_na_tikhoookanskoe_poberezhe_yuzhno_kamchatskogo_zakaznika_posle_razgula_stikhii_m/)



programs.”<sup>5952</sup> To support this development, Saudi Arabia will work to ensure the safety and security of energy supplies.<sup>5953</sup>

On 8 August 2019 it was reported that Saudi Arabia’s Dumat Al Jandal 400 megawatt wind farm project achieved a low levelized cost of energy for onshore wind power at 1.99 cents per kilowatt hour.<sup>5954</sup> The wind farm project is scheduled to be in commercial operation by 2022. It is estimated to generate power to supply 70,000 homes in Saudi Arabia.

On 28 August 2019 Saudi Aramco announced it planned to continue deploying artificial coral reefs along the Southern Red Sea, building its work the previous year.<sup>5955</sup>

On 15 September 2019 it was announced that Aramco would plant one million native trees and the Khurais Producing Department would plant 15,000 trees by the end of 2019 in order to address desertification, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, sand drifts and create natural shade.<sup>5956</sup> The project includes testing and evaluating the impact of tree plantation technologies on water consumption and conservation, growth rate and cost-effectiveness.

On 19 September 2019 it was announced that Saudi Aramco launched a collaboration with the Power Systems Renewables Department and Unconventional Resources on green energy applications and technologies to advance energy efficiency and the deployment of renewable energies via technological solutions.<sup>5957</sup>

On 29 September 2019, the Saudi Energy Efficiency Center launched a course on Energy Conservation in Government Buildings in Riyadh for specialists at governmental organizations.<sup>5958</sup> A total of 10 courses were scheduled until the end of 2019 in various cities.

On 2 October 2019 it was announced the Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, a group of energy companies, including Saudi Aramco, recently introduced new measures to spur large-scale investments in carbon capture and storage.<sup>5959</sup> This includes efforts to reduce carbon intensity and improve energy efficiency.

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<sup>5952</sup> Saudi Arabia committed to tackling climate change, says Crown Prince, Arab News (Riyadh). 1 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1518106/saudi-arabia>

<sup>5953</sup> Saudi Arabia committed to tackling climate change, says Crown Prince, Arab News (Riyadh). 1 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1518106/saudi-arabia>

<sup>5954</sup> Dumat Al Jandal Wind Project Beats Record Low Price for Onshore Wind Power, Power Saudi Arabia, 8 August 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.powersaudiarabia.com.sa/web/attach/news/Dumat-Al-Jandal-Lowest-LCOE.pdf>.

<sup>5955</sup> Increasing Efforts to Protect and Enhance Coral Reefs, Aramco, 28 August 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020.

<sup>5956</sup> Reducing Desertification with Native Trees, Aramco, 15 September 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2019/reducing-desertification-with-native-trees>.

<sup>5957</sup> Using Renewables to Power Unconventional Gas Wells in Wa’ad Al-Shamal, Aramco, 19 September 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2019/renewables-powering-gas-wells-waad-al-shamal>.

<sup>5958</sup> Energy Conservation Courses Started in Government Buildings, Saudi Energy Efficiency Center, 9 March 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.seec.gov.sa/en/media-center/events-and-activities/energy-conservation-courses-started-in-government-buildings/>.

<sup>5959</sup> Oil and Gas Climate Initiative Sets Sights on Carbon Capture, Aramco, 2 October 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2019/ocgi-new-measures-climate-challenges>.

On 29 October 2019 it was announced that Saudi Aramco signed an memorandum of undersatnding with the Norwegian software company Aker to cooperate on green solutions and industrial digitalization.<sup>5960</sup>

On 30 October 2019, Saudi Arabia proposed plans to launch a carbon trading scheme toward an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The goal is to diversify Saudi Arabia’s energy supplies and reduce carbon emissions.<sup>5961</sup>

On 30 October 2019 Saudi Arabia announced to the press a proposal for a framework on a circular low-carbon economy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reported that the Saudi Energy Efficiency Program reduced energy intensity by 8 per cent.<sup>5962</sup>

In November 2019, Saudi Arabia began the second phase of issuing a standard specification on requirements for anti-rotation and adhesion on wet surfaces for tires, a measure related to energy efficiency.<sup>5963</sup>

In November 2019, the National Energy Efficiency Services Company (Tarsheed) completed the work on energy efficiency at the headquarters buildings of the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh.<sup>5964</sup>

In December 2019, it was reported that Tarsheed completed the “rehabilitation works of the first, second and third packages of its projects aimed at raising the level of energy efficiency in 126 public schools from the schools in Riyadh.”<sup>5965</sup>

On 12 December 2019 Saudi Aramco unveiled a low carbon truck at an event in Detroit, Michigan.<sup>5966</sup>

On 28 January 2020 Saudi Arabia held a workshop on energy efficiency in household appliances and residential buildings, along with Japanese experts.<sup>5967</sup>

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<sup>5960</sup> Norway’s Aker to Cooperate with Saudi Aramco on Digitalization, Reuters, 29 October 2019. Access Date: 25 Septemeber 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-aker-saudi/norways-aker-to-cooperate-with-saudi-aramco-on-digitalization-idUSKBN1X81WW>.

<sup>5961</sup> Saudi Arabia plans to launch carbon trading scheme, Reuters (Riyadh). October 30 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-saudi-investments-energy/saudi-arabia-plans-to-launch-carbon-trading-scheme-idUSKBN1X91M1>

<sup>5962</sup> Economist/His Highness Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman: The Saudi Energy Efficiency Program Reduced Energy Intensity by 8%, Saudi Press Agency, 30 October 2019. Access Dated: 24 September 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/1989217>.

<sup>5963</sup> Transportation Sector, Saudi Energy Efficiency Center, n.d. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.seec.gov.sa/en/energy-sectors/transportation-sector/>.

<sup>5964</sup> The National Energy Efficiency Services Company (Tarsheed) Completes the Rehabilitation of the Headquarters Buildings of the Institute of Public Administration in Riyadh, National Energy Services Company, November 2019. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.tarshid.com.sa/ar/a-news/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%AF%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%83%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%A1%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B1/>.

<sup>5965</sup> Completes Energy (Tarsheed) Efficiency Rehabilitation Works in 126 Schools in Riyadh, National Energy Services Company, December 2019. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.tarshid.com.sa/ar/a-news/%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%83%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A3%D8%B9%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A5%D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%A3%D9%87%D9%8A%D9%84-%D9%83%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%A1%D8%A9/>.

<sup>5966</sup> Aramco Debuts Low CO2 Demonstration Truck at SAE Innovations in Mobility Event in Detroit, Aramco, 12 December 2019. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.aramco.com/en/news-media/news/2019/sae-innovations-mobility-event-detroit#>.

On 8 February 2020, the Saudi government announced that it will host a carbon capture conference on 25-26 February 2020, with officials and executives of major companies in the oil and environmental sectors to discuss the role of carbon capture, utilization, and storage in enabling a circular carbon economy. The goal, says Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammad Al Khalifa, is to “combat climate change and increase oil production.”<sup>5968</sup>

On 9 February 2020, the Saudi Government’s Eastern Province Secretariat announced that it will establish a new “Department of Coral Reef Protection.” The goal is to protect, clean, and stabilize the formation and stabilization of coral islands while also protecting the coasts from erosion.<sup>5969</sup>

On 20 February 2020 Saudi Arabia held a workshop on Opportunities in the Energy Efficiency Services Companies Sector.<sup>5970</sup>

On 25 February 2020 Saudi Arabia held an international conference on carbon capture, utilization and storage.<sup>5971</sup>

On 2 March 2020, Saudi Arabia held a workshop with licensed energy efficiency services companies.<sup>5972</sup>

On 25 June 2020, Energy Minister Prince Abdul Aziz bin Salman announced that Saudi Arabia will produce 50 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030.<sup>5973</sup> The goal is to scale up earlier energy diversification plans and transform to renewables at a faster pace.<sup>5974</sup>

On 26 July 2020, Energy Minister Prince Abdul Aziz bin Salman laid out the foundations of Saudi Arabia’s circular carbon economy strategy.<sup>5975</sup> The goal is to slow down and reverse inexorable global warming caused by the emission of carbon materials into the atmosphere, by reducing emissions.<sup>5976</sup>

Saudi Arabia has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has complied with its commitment to foster low emissions through its carbon trading scheme, Carbon Capture and Store technology and renewable

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<sup>5967</sup> Economic/Energy Efficiency in Home Appliances and Residential Buildings Workshop at the Saudi Electronics Institute, 28 January 2020, Saudi Press Agency. Access Date: 24 September 2020.

<https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=ar&newsid=2027598>.

<sup>5968</sup> Saudi Arabia to host carbon capture conference, Trade Arabia (Riyadh) February 8 2020. Access Date: February 9 2020. [http://trade Arabia.com/news/IND\\_363854.html](http://trade Arabia.com/news/IND_363854.html)

<sup>5969</sup> Creation of a Coral Reef Protection Department in the Eastern Region Municipality, Saudi Government Press Release (Riyadh) February 9 2020. Access Date: February 9 2020.

<https://www.mewa.gov.sa/ar/MediaCenter/PressReleases/PressFiles/20200209.pdf>

<sup>5970</sup> Workshop Entitled Opportunities in the Energy Efficiency Services Companies Sector, 12 March 2020, Saudi Energy Efficiency Center. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.seec.gov.sa/en/media-center/events-and-activities/workshop-entitled-opportunities-in-the-efficiency-services-sector/>.

<sup>5971</sup> iCCUS 2020 Conference and Exhibition to Kick Off Today in Riyadh, Saudi Press Agency, 25 February 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <https://www.spa.gov.sa/viewfullstory.php?lang=en&newsid=2038885>.

<sup>5972</sup> Workshop with Licensed Energy Efficiency Services Companies, 12 March 2020, Saudi Energy Efficiency Center. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.seec.gov.sa/en/media-center/events-and-activities/workshop-with-licensed-energy-efficiency-services-companies/>.

<sup>5973</sup> The benefits of Saudi Arabia’s renewable energy push, Arab News (Riyadh). June 29 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1697306>

<sup>5974</sup> The benefits of Saudi Arabia’s renewable energy push, Arab News (Riyadh). June 29 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1697306>

<sup>5975</sup> Circular carbon economy holds promise in battle against global warming, Arab News (Dubai). 26 July 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1709941/business-economy>

<sup>5976</sup> Circular carbon economy holds promise in battle against global warming, Arab News (Dubai). 26 July 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1709941/business-economy>

energy. On resilient development it has promoted tree planting and coral reefs to address desertification and coastal erosion. However, on the latter it falls short of the “wide range” threshold.

Thus, Saudi Arabia receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Burhan Anees Khan*

### **South Africa: 0**

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 19 August 2019, the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and the Independent Power Producer Office declared joint collaborations to add further consultations before the Integrated Resource Plan is promulgated. They declared future plans to attract financial investments in energy generation capacities in South Africa, including both renewables and non-renewables.<sup>5977</sup> This collaboration will be jointly conducted by the implementation committee of the DMRE, the National Treasury and the Development Bank of Southern Africa.<sup>5978</sup>

On 5 September 2019, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries Barbara Creecy and Canada’s Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna signed a memorandum of understanding, stating their agreement to cooperate on environmental and climate issues. These issues include “fighting climate change, increasing environmental compliance and enforcement, improving chemicals and waste management, protecting biodiversity and enhancing conservation, and combating marine litter and plastics policy,” and utilizing technology for clean economic growth.<sup>5979</sup>

On 26 and 27 September 2019, Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Samson Gwede Mantashe attended meetings with large energy providers in order to request that they lower the tariffs associated with power plants. The minister told independent power producers (IPPs) that the tariffs were placing a drain on energy-intensive industries, and were reducing the competitiveness and viability of investments in the renewable energy sector. In the statement, the Ministry stated that IPPs had committed to engage further and to “create working mechanisms to take these discussions forward in a positive and collaborative manner.”<sup>5980</sup>

On 8 October 2019, Minister Matashe declared continued support for South Africa’s Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPP). It encourages investment

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<sup>5977</sup> Acting IPP Office head promises ‘extensive’ talks with stakeholders on new bid documents, Engineering News (Pretoria) 19 August 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <https://m.miningweekly.com/article/acting-ipp-office-head-promises-extensive-talks-with-stakeholders-on-new-bid-documents-2019-08-19>

<sup>5978</sup> Acting IPP Office head promises ‘extensive’ talks with stakeholders on new bid documents, Engineering News (Pretoria) 19 August 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <https://m.miningweekly.com/article/acting-ipp-office-head-promises-extensive-talks-with-stakeholders-on-new-bid-documents-2019-08-19>

<sup>5979</sup> South Africa and Canada agree to cooperate on environmental protection and climate change, Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) 5 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/southafricaandcanada\\_environmentalprotection\\_climatechange\\_memorandumofunderstanding](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/southafricaandcanada_environmentalprotection_climatechange_memorandumofunderstanding)

<sup>5980</sup> Government asks renewables IPPs to voluntarily lower tariffs, Engineering News (Pretoria) 27 September 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <http://m.engineeringnews.co.za/article/government-asks-renewables-ipp-to-voluntarily-lower-tariffs-2019-09-27>

in independent power producers, by generating 17,800 megawatts of renewable energy after 2012, moving from 5,000 megawatts in 2019 and a further 2,000 megawatts by 2020.<sup>5981</sup>

On 15 October 2019, the South African government announced its Integrated Resource Plan, which plans to commission another 24,000 to 26,000 megawatts of renewable energy in the next 11 years, backed by over ZAR1 trillion in funds.<sup>5982</sup>

On 26 October 2019, South Africa attended the 29th BASIC meeting in Beijing, with delegates from China, Brazil and India. In preparation for the 25th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, they acknowledged climate change and “confirmed their commitments to multilateralism in order to address the issue and to foster climate resilience and promote greenhouse gas emissions reduction.”<sup>5983</sup> They also emphasized their commitment to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and support of other developing countries in doing so as well as they are the most vulnerable to climate change repercussions.<sup>5984</sup> Additionally, the BASIC group encouraged funding to the Green Climate Fund to support developing countries as they adapt.<sup>5985</sup>

On 15 November 2019, African Ministers of the Environment agreed to accelerate sustainable development action. The ministers committed to implement measures to ensure environmental stability, a circular economy, focusing on raising awareness to the role oceans and freshwater play in the economy, and the need to mitigate the effects of floods and cyclones alike.<sup>5986</sup> They also reaffirmed their commitment to promoting an economy based on biodiversity, and resilient development as part of their commitment to the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience.<sup>5987</sup> Additionally, they restated their intention to provide sufficient resources to address land degradation and drought, and recognize the interconnectivity between climate change and development programs, the need to reduce plastic waste, and make stronger, informed decisions.<sup>5988</sup>

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<sup>5981</sup> Speech by the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy Mr SAMSON GWEDE MANTASHE, MP at the WINDABA Conference 8<sup>th</sup>, October 2019, Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy (Pretoria) October 8 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <http://www.energy.gov.za/files/media/speeches/2019/Speech-by-Minister-at-WINDABA-Conference-081019.pdf>

<sup>5982</sup> SA's renewable IPP programme would benefit from changes that enhance local content, Energy MX (Pretoria) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <https://energymx.co.za/2019/10/15/sas-renewable-ipp-programme-would-benefit-from-changes-that-enhance-local-content/>

<sup>5983</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5984</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5985</sup> Joint Statement issued at the Conclusion of the 29<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial meet on Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (New Delhi) 26 October 2019. Date Accessed: 3 April 2020. <https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1589318>

<sup>5986</sup> African Ministers of the Environment agree to accelerate action through effective mechanisms for sustainable development, Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement\\_sustainabledevelopmentaction#](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement_sustainabledevelopmentaction#)

<sup>5987</sup> African Ministers of the Environment agree to accelerate action through effective mechanisms for sustainable development, Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement\\_sustainabledevelopmentaction#](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement_sustainabledevelopmentaction#)

<sup>5988</sup> African Ministers of the Environment agree to accelerate action through effective mechanisms for sustainable development, Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) 15 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement\\_sustainabledevelopmentaction#](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/amcen17agreement_sustainabledevelopmentaction#)

On 4 December 2019, South Africa issued a press report on its USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development Program. With ZAR200 million in funding from the government, the program currently holds a projected reduction of 600,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions via SA-LED technical assistance across a variety of sectors. This includes the use of biogas digesters in order to generate energy, support in developing public-private partnerships to finance and procure clean energy, such as solar photovoltaic panels and mini-hydropower generation installations and increases in the structure of audit processes for water and waste treatment plants. USAID also plans to increase its achievements in technical standards, by training over 705 municipal officials on LED concepts and applications, including on the use of the Clean Energy Reduction tool and how to implement the SANS 10400-XA protocol.<sup>5989</sup>

On 10 December 2019, a new stage of REIPPP's renewable energy initiative was announced, with 27 power plants under production, forecasted to add over 2,300 MW to South Africa's power grid. The project will provide a combination of wind, biomass, and hydro power, with 813 MW worth of solar power also coming in late February 2020. The Kangnas Wind Farm is expected to be fully operation by late August 2020, with its 61 turbines contributing a total of 140 MW to the grid. The government is also funding the construction of the Perdekraal East Wind Farm, with its 48 turbines expected to be installed by late April 2020.<sup>5990</sup>

On February 2020, the government announced a new measure for its operation to implement renewable energy sources. As part of its Integrated Resource Plan, government officials throughout 2019 and 2020 have devised a project to build 12 new Eolic energy plants, thus creating wind energy facilities to replace South Africa's wide-ranging use of coal. South Africa's current goal is to have, by 2030, 14.4 GW of consumed energy supplied by wind power. The government estimates that this is equal to 18 per cent of the total energy required nationally, meaning that it will have to add 1.6 GW of wind energy to the grid every year from 2019 leading up to 2030. The project thus entails the construction of 5,700 wind turbines, along with 640 new steel towers per year, located all throughout the western and eastern capes of its coastline.<sup>5991</sup>

On 4 March 2020, South Africa began construction of its Sirius Solar Plant, consolidating the first phase of a project designed to provide over 217 GW, leading to a reduction of over 180,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The Sirius Solar Plant draws funding from the REIPP and is currently being built two other solar power plants expected to reach commercial operation by the end of the year, which will jointly provide 172 MW.<sup>5992</sup>

On 6 April 2020, the solar power project backed by South Africa's REIPP launched commercial operations of its third solar power plant, completing the 258MW Upington Solar Power Complex.<sup>5993</sup>

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<sup>5989</sup> Announcing the USAID South Africa Low Emissions Development Program, Climatelinks (Pretoria) December 4 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <https://www.climatelinks.org/blog/announcing-usaid-south-africa-low-emissions-development-program-climatelinks>

<sup>5990</sup> Some light at the end of the load shedding tunnel, Business Insider South Africa (Pretoria) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 12 February 2020. <https://www.businessinsider.co.za/some-light-at-the-end-of-the-load-shedding-tunnel-new-independent-power-plants-could-be-connected-to-the-grid-by-february-heres-what-is-coming-online-and-when-2019-12>

<sup>5991</sup> South Africa to Build 12 New Wind Farms to Replace Coal Stations by 2030, IT News Africa (Pretoria) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.itnewsafrika.com/2020/02/south-africa-to-build-12-new-wind-farms-to-replace-coal-stations-by-2030/>

<sup>5992</sup> Scatec Solar's 86 MW Solar Project in South Africa Begins Operation, Mercom (New Delhi) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://mercomindia.com/scatec-solar-86-mw-solar-project-south-africa/>

<sup>5993</sup> Scatec Solar completes 258 MW Upington project in South Africa, Renewable Energy Magazine (Madrid) 6 April 2020. Access date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv\\_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406](https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406)

The 86MW facility is expected to produce 217GWh of energy per year to the region's grid, thus supplying over 40,000 South African households annually.<sup>5994</sup> The entire complex will deliver 650GWh in production per year, providing clean energy to around 120,000 households and neutralizing 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions annually.<sup>5995</sup>

On 17 August 2020, the South African Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation launched an alternative energy project designed to make clean energy more accessible to low-income entrepreneurs in rural communities.<sup>5996</sup> The project will provide reliable solar energy panels, batteries and inverters that may be used on electronic devices, charging stations or mobile offices.<sup>5997</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Development Bank of South Africa secured funding to develop a renewable energy project entitled the Mitochondria Energy Company.<sup>5998</sup> The plan entails the design of a 250kW fuel cell system, which will convert chemical energy from hydrogen into electricity, in order to support South Africa's transition as a player in the emerging hydrogen economy.<sup>5999</sup>

South Africa has partially complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through Integrated Resource Plan and USAID South African Low Emissions Development Program and Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through the African Ministers of the Environment's reaffirmation of the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration for Increased Resilience, and its support for the Green Climate Fund. However, it falls short of the "wide range" threshold.

Thus, South Africa receives a score of 0.

*Analyst: Lucy Faria*

### **Turkey: +1**

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 23 September 2019, Minister of the Environment and Urbanization Murat Kurum spoke with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres about developments of Turkey's Infrastructure, Cities, and Local Action Working Group. Minister Kurum states that Turkey's buildings are

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<sup>5994</sup> Scatec Solar completes 258 MW Upington project in South Africa, Renewable Energy Magazine (Madrid) 6 April 2020. Access date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv\\_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406](https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406)

<sup>5995</sup> Scatec Solar completes 258 MW Upington project in South Africa, Renewable Energy Magazine (Madrid) 6 April 2020. Access date: 24 July 2020. [https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv\\_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406](https://www.renewableenergymagazine.com/pv_solar/scatec-solar-completes-258-mw-upington-project-20200406)

<sup>5996</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande launches BabyTurtle alternative energy project, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launches-babyturtle-alternative-energy-project-20-aug-17-aug-2020>

<sup>5997</sup> Minister Blade Nzimande launches BabyTurtle alternative energy project, Government of South Africa (Pretoria) 17 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.gov.za/speeches/minister-blade-nzimande-launches-babyturtle-alternative-energy-project-20-aug-17-aug-2020>

<sup>5998</sup> South African fuel cell technology company to be developed, ESI Africa (Pretoria) 4 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.esi-africa.com/industry-sectors/future-energy/south-african-fuel-cell-technology-company-to-be-developed/>

<sup>5999</sup> Mitochondria Energy Company secures funding for feasibility study of stationary fuel cell energy solution, Africa Inc. (Pretoria) 4 September 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://africaincmag.com/2020/09/07/mitochondria-energy-company-secures-funding-for-feasibility-study-of-stationary-fuel-cell-energy-solution/>

responsible for emitting 40 per cent of global greenhouse gases of the sector. As such, they have prepared the Zero Carbon Buildings For All initiative.<sup>6000</sup>

On 5 October 2019, Minister Kurum announced that a tariff will be introduced for consumers of electricity produced from only renewable energy sources. He states that the Ministry will continue to increase domestic investment and share of renewables in electricity in geothermal power. He further states that Turkey continues to meet targets in increasing its capacity for renewable energy, reaching 4,767 megawatts, and will continue to increase with the implementation of the Renewable Energy Resource Areas competitions.<sup>6001</sup>

On 16 October 2019, Minister Kurum, participated in the “Zero Waste on Green Economy Path” program, organized in the Waste Management Panel. This panel evaluates Turkish organizations and institutions and their compliance with the zero-waste system. They concluded that 25,000 organizations and institutions have met the zero-waste system. They are evaluated on the establishment of the building, monitoring, waste generation, and recycling.<sup>6002</sup>

On 3 December 2019, Minister Kurum announces that exhaust gas emission measurements will be applied automatically, and criminal proceedings will begin to take place for those who do not comply on 1 January 2020. Vehicle owners are required to take their exhaust gas measurements by the end of the year to avoid penalties. The goal is to prevent vehicular-induced air pollution.<sup>6003</sup>

On 7 December 2019, the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization outlined Natural Reserve Areas of Protection, which include ecosystems that are in high risk of degradation and destruction as a result of human activities and require special protection actions from national and international governments.<sup>6004</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister Kurum spoke at the Ministerial Session of the 25th Conference of the Parties to the UN Climate Change Framework Convention. In his speech, he stated that Turkey is committed to fighting against climate change, citing the country’s significant progress in renewable energy and energy efficiency.<sup>6005</sup> The country’s installations of renewable energy sources increased by 37 per cent from 2015. The country has also implemented the National Energy Efficiency Action

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<sup>6000</sup> Climate Presentation in the United Nations from the Minister’s Institution, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 23 September 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-dan-birlesmis-milletlerde-iklim-sunumu-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-28609>

<sup>6001</sup> Electricity Renewable Energy Tariff On the Way, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 5 October 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.enerji.gov.tr/tr-TR/Bakanlik-Haberleri/Elektrikte-yenilenebilir-enerji-tarifesi-yolda>

<sup>6002</sup> Minister Institution: “25 Thousand Institutions and Our Organization Met Zero-Waste System,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 16 October 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-25-bin-kurum-ve-kurulusumuz-sifir-atik-sistemiyle-tanisti-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-28623>

<sup>6003</sup> New Semester in Exhaust Measurement Starts at New Year, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 03 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/egzoz-olcumunde-yeni-donem-yilbasinda-basliyor-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29658>

<sup>6004</sup> Natural Site Areas Conservation and Conditions for Use, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 07 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/dogal-sit-alanlari-koruma-ve-kullanma-kosullari-belirlendi-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29662>

<sup>6005</sup> The Minister’s Institution Outlines the Steps Against Climate Change in Madrid, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligine-karsi-atilan-adimlari-madrid-te-anlatti-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29667>



Plan, which has set a road map to increase energy efficiency with 55 actions, among other important projects that aid in climate action.<sup>6006</sup>

On 10 December 2019, Minister Kurum spoke at the Turkey Authority Panel to announce that they will be constructing 25,000 sustainable social housing by 2023 as one of their initiatives to combat climate change.<sup>6007</sup>

On 12 December 2019, Minister Kurum spoke at the World Energy Outlook 2019 Turkey, which deliberated the theme of “Global Energy and Climate Developments and Implications for Turkey.” He stated, in his speech, that the consumption of coal globally has dramatically increased, and that more Research and Development and Innovation is required for a shift to clean coal technologies to occur.<sup>6008</sup>

On 14 January 2020, Minister Kurum attended the 7th OIZ Energy Summit, organized by the Industrial Zones Supreme Body (OSBUK). He cites in his speech that the Ministry has saved TRY89 million with VAP projects since 2009, in addition to making significant contributions in efficient engine and lighting electricity projects, and waste heat recovery projects. He states that they have achieved their primary energy savings of 493,000 tons of oil in the last ten years.<sup>6009</sup>

On 15 January 2020, Minister Kurum announced an extensive Smart City Project. The Smart city Project will see that “all urban transformation areas and 100 thousand social housing projects will be built according to the smart neighborhood concept.” Charging stations will be introduced to all buildings, and specific attention will be paid to each city’s unique needs.<sup>6010</sup>

On 23 January 2020, Turkey announced it will be developing environmentally friendly, energy efficient buildings. Recognizing that their building sector is responsible for 30 per cent of emissions, they have decided to proliferate the number of green housing with the National Green Certificate Scheme.<sup>6011</sup>

On 26 February 2020, Minister Kurum reminded the public of the 15-item action plan for the Black Sea Region, and stated that they have started to produce 15,000 houses as part of that plan. Due to climate change, it is estimated that 9,043 buildings are at risk and will be demolished. As such, the creation of these 15,000 houses will house them and will be “energy-efficient, climate-sensitive housing projects.”<sup>6012</sup>

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<sup>6006</sup> The Minister’s Institution Outlines the Steps Against Climate Change in Madrid, The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligine-karsi-atilan-adimlari-madrid-te-anlatti-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29667>

<sup>6007</sup> Minister Institution: “Cities Need to Transform for the Fight Against Climate Change,” The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization (Ankara) 10 December 2019. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-iklim-degisikligiyle-mucadele-icin-sehirlerin-donusmesi-gerekli-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29666>

<sup>6008</sup> World Energy Outlook 2019, Turkey Launch, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Istanbul) 12 December 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.enerji.gov.tr/tr-TR/Bakanlik-Haberleri/Dunya-Enerji-Gorunumu-2019-Turkiye-Lansmani>

<sup>6009</sup> 7. OSB Energy Summit, The Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 14 January 2020. Access Date: 25 March 2020. <https://www.enerji.gov.tr/tr-TR/Bakanlik-Haberleri/7-OSB-Enerji-Zirvesi>

<sup>6010</sup> Opening of Smart Cities and Municipalities Congress and Exhibition Was Held, Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning (Ankara) 15 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.csb.gov.tr/akilli-sehirler-ve-belediyeler-kongre-ve-sergisinin-acilisi-yapildi-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29694>

<sup>6011</sup> The Number of “Green Building” Will Increase with Domestic Green Certificate System Yes-TR, Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning (Ankara) 23 January 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.csb.gov.tr/yerli-yesil-sertifika-sistemi-yes-tr-ile-yesil-bina-sayisi-artacak-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29700>

<sup>6012</sup> The Minister’s Institution: “The Floors in Flood and Flood Living Areas Will be Move,” Ministry for the Environment and Urban Planning (Ankara) 26 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-sel-ve-taskin-yasanan-alanlardaki-konutlar-tasinacak-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29721>

On 5 March 2020, Minister Kurum made a reminder of the announcement of the National Smart Cities Strategy and Action Plan that will make electric charging stations mandatory. They will be required in shopping centres and in public parking lots, so as to make them easily accessible.<sup>6013</sup>

On 16 September 2020, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Fatih Dönmez announced the research and development of solar panels in Konya Karapınar.<sup>6014</sup> It is estimated it will increase Turkey's electricity generation in solar energy share by approximately 20 per cent.<sup>6015</sup>

Turkey has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through low-emission initiatives that integrate Indigenous knowledge, geothermal energy and the continuation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its sustainable, energy-efficient housing and smart city development, and its participation in the Zero Waste Green Economy Path program.

Thus, Turkey receives a score of +1.

*Analyst: Margaret de Leon*

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

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 27 June 2019, the United Kingdom passed a major piece of legislation stipulating net-zero emissions by 2050. The law was recommended by the Committee on Climate Change, the UK's independent climate advisory body, and contains legally binding provisions designed to hold future iterations of the British Parliament accountable for its implementation.<sup>6016</sup>

On 27 June 2019, the United Kingdom pledged GBP26 million in support of projects to accelerate carbon-capture developments and carbon storage, with the purpose of transitioning into a net zero emissions economy by capturing over 40,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year. The development is a joint venture between nine major British companies, led by Tata Chemicals in Cheshire. When it is completed in 2021, the project will be the largest carbon capture plant in the UK, with the capacity of removing 100 times more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than the country's current largest facility.<sup>6017</sup>

On 10 August 2019, the United Kingdom announced a new phase of its Cob Bauge project, a joint venture with the French government that is in the process of developing energy-efficient housing, while also developing low-carbon technology in the field of construction. The development can save

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<sup>6013</sup> Minister Institution: "Electric Charging Stations Will be Mandatory," Ministry for the Environment and Urban Planning (Ankara) 5 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.csb.gov.tr/bakan-kurum-elektrikli-sarj-istasyonlari-zorunlu-olacak-bakanlik-faaliyetleri-29725>

<sup>6014</sup> First local solar panels sent to Karapınar, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=703>

<sup>6015</sup> "We Will Open Karapınar Solar Power Plant Next Month," Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (Ankara) 9 July 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://enerji.gov.tr/haber-detay?id=661>

<sup>6016</sup> UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 June 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-becomes-first-major-economy-to-pass-net-zero-emissions-law>

<sup>6017</sup> UK's largest carbon capture project to prevent equivalent of 22,000 cars' emissions from polluting the atmosphere from 2021, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 27 June 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uks-largest-carbon-capture-project-to-prevent-equivalent-of-22000-cars-emissions-from-polluting-the-atmosphere-from-2021>

up to four tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per building, and is significantly less carbon-intensive than concrete, brick and plastic building materials. It will also assist both governments in their goal to meet current EU targets, and reduce their energy use by 20 per cent of 2012 levels by 2020.<sup>6018</sup>

On 26 August 2019, the British government announced its plans to double Parliament's contribution to the Green Climate Fund, which was established as part of the UN climate change process. The additional funds are intended to "enable more investment in prevention and preparedness" and assist emerging markets and developing economies within the process of mitigating future emissions of carbon dioxide.<sup>6019</sup>

On 2 October 2019, the United Kingdom published a press release setting out clear plans for future emission reductions by the Energy Networks Association, including investments by the Low Carbons Contract Company for large-scale renewable electricity for up to 16 GW of added renewable energy capacity.<sup>6020</sup>

On 3 October 2019, the government committed GBP220 million towards a new fusion reactor design programme. The government is currently working with engineers at the Culham Centre for Fusion Energy to develop the STEP project, which aims to build a plant capable of generating hundreds of megawatts of net electrical energy. Andrea Leadson, the UK Secretary of State, announced that "nuclear fusion has the potential to be an unlimited clean, safe and carbon-free energy source, and we want the first commercially viable machine to be in the UK."<sup>6021</sup>

On 15 October 2019, Secretary of State Theresa Villiers spoke of its new Environment Bill. The bill will call for polluters to pay, damages prevented or mitigated, consideration for the environment throughout the entire government, and the adoption of precautionary approach in air quality, water, biodiversity and nature, resource efficiency and waste reduction. In regards to air quality, the UK invested GBP3.5 billion to reduce vehicular emissions.<sup>6022</sup> For water, the bill aims at ensuring long-term water resources.<sup>6023</sup> Regarding resources and waste, the bill will establish fines for single-use plastics, encourage reusable alternatives and implement efforts to introduce reusable drinking

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<sup>6018</sup> Down-to-earth collaboration in France and England for low-carbon, sustainable houses, European Commission (Brussels) 10 August 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/en/projects/france/down-to-earth-collaboration-in-france-and-england-for-low-carbon-sustainable-houses](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/projects/france/down-to-earth-collaboration-in-france-and-england-for-low-carbon-sustainable-houses)

<sup>6019</sup> UK aid doubles support to reduce global carbon emissions and help developing countries adapt to the impact of climate change, Energy & Industrial Strategy (London) 26 August 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-doubles-support-to-reduce-global-carbon-emissions-and-help-developing-countries-adapt-to-the-impact-of-climate-change>

<sup>6020</sup> Clean Growth: Technologies for meeting the UK's emissions reduction targets: Government and Ofgem Responses to the Committee's Twentieth Report of Session 2017–19 First Special Report of Session 2017-2019, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (London) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmsctech/287/287.pdf>

<sup>6021</sup> UK announces £220m to design a 'commercially viable' fusion power plant, IOP Publishing (London) 3 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://physicsworld.com/a/uk-announces-220m-to-design-a-commercially-viable-fusion-power-plant/>

<sup>6022</sup> Leading the charge for the environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/leading-the-charge-for-the-environment>

<sup>6023</sup> Leading the charge for the environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/leading-the-charge-for-the-environment>

containers.<sup>6024</sup> The bill aims to tackle nature and biodiversity concerns by developing and publishing of Local Recovery Strategies for each habitat for better investments and results.<sup>6025</sup>

On 29 October 2019, the United Kingdom announced that it will double its contributions to International Climate Finance (ICF), providing GBP11.6 billion from the years 2021 to 2025 in order to enable developing countries to undertake greater climate action. The Office of the Prime Minister also declared its future plans to work with the ICF in order to “create clean growth markets,” invest in multi-donor funds, foster under-supported technologies, and drive decarbonization at a large commercial scale.<sup>6026</sup>

On 29 October 2019, Britain stated that its Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy has reopened the GBP10 million Rural Community Energy Fund, which provides financial, technical, and logistical support for rural communities in England that wish to develop renewable energy projects. The fund is designed to cover pre-development costs of sustainable developments in the British agricultural sectors, in an effort to foster low carbon projects at reasonable costs.<sup>6027</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the government communicated its commitment to ban the sale of diesel and gasoline by 2035. Secretary of Transport Grant Shapps announced that Britain plans to allocate GBP1.5 billion towards fostering the large-scale use of electric vehicles, as a steady alternative to gas-fueled cars.<sup>6028</sup>

On 28 February 2020, Britain finalized the assembly of its new Zero Carbon Commission, which contains a variety of climate experts drawn from political, scientific, academic and climate policy backgrounds. The commission is projected to develop a national decarbonization strategy across all sectors, ultimately designing a carbon pricing system that will help drive the UK towards its 2050 net zero goal. In an open letter to the public, the group declared its plan to “move quickly to deliver a concrete plan of action” well before the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>6029</sup>

On 4 March 2020, the United Kingdom announced it intends to introduce E-10 petrol into gas stations. This plan entails supplying a lower carbon fuel, which is projected to cut carbon dioxide emissions from the transport sector. The government stated that low-carbon E-10 fuel could reduce

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<sup>6024</sup> Leading the charge for the environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/leading-the-charge-for-the-environment>

<sup>6025</sup> Leading the charge for the environment, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 15 October 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/leading-the-charge-for-the-environment>

<sup>6026</sup> Clean Growth: Technologies for meeting the UK’s emissions reduction targets: Government and Ofgem Responses to the Committee’s Twentieth Report of Session 2017–19 First Special Report of Session 2017-2019, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (London) 29 October 2019 Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmsctech/287/287.pdf>

<sup>6027</sup> Clean Growth: Technologies for meeting the UK’s emissions reduction targets: Government and Ofgem Responses to the Committee’s Twentieth Report of Session 2017–19 First Special Report of Session 2017-2019, House of Commons Science and Technology Committee (London) 29 October 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201919/cmselect/cmsctech/287/287.pdf>

<sup>6028</sup> UK government plans to ban the sale of diesel and gasoline cars by 2035, CNBC (London) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.cnb.com/2020/02/04/uk-government-plans-to-ban-sale-of-diesel-and-gasoline-cars-by-2035.html>

<sup>6029</sup> Towards Zero Carbon: Expert commission begins work to design UK carbon pricing system, Business Green (London) 28 February 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4011533/zero-carbon-expert-commission-begins-design-uk-carbon-pricing>

carbon dioxide emissions by 750,000 tons per year, which would be equivalent to removing approximately 350,000 cars off the road.<sup>6030</sup>

On 7 March 2020, the Scottish government introduced low-emission zones in order to combat air pollution and encourage drivers to use cleaner green-energy vehicles. The low-emission zones will be established in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, and Glasgow and will include punitive charges for drivers who do not comply with regulations. The plan will allow entrance into zones to all cars that qualify as “electric and ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV),” which entails any vehicles, either full-electric or hybrid, which emit less than 75g/km of carbon dioxide. The government also plans to pair Scotland’s low-emission zones with a future plan for Air Quality Management Areas by 2023, which will help to further manage urban pollution and improve air quality in Scotland’s four biggest cities.<sup>6031</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Environment Agency launched a plan to meet water shortages as a result of climate change, in order to foster resilience. The National Framework for Water Resources combines the industry, regulators and the government to reduce the average litres per person to 100 per day, improve water efficiency, decrease leakage, develop new reservoirs, enhance regional water transfers and reduce the use of harmful drought measures.<sup>6032</sup>

On 16 March 2020, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced the seven-year Agricultural Transition period will commence with GBP1 million in Future Farming Resilience Funding to support farmers as they adopt new farming methods.<sup>6033</sup>

On 18 March 2020, the government announced that local communities across England would be provided more than GBP2.2 million in air quality funding as part of the Air Quality Grant program that seeks to lower emissions. Additionally, there is the Clean Air Strategy that aims to phase out domestic coal and wet wood usage for cleaner alternatives.<sup>6034</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the United Kingdom was announced as the first co-chair of the governing council to India’s Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure.<sup>6035</sup> The body was established by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and consists of an international group, joining governments, UN agencies, banks, private sector groups, and academia to develop resilient infrastructure systems able

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<sup>6030</sup> In bid to cut transport emissions, UK government wants to introduce lower carbon fuel to gas stations, CNBC (London) 4 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/04/uk-wants-to-introduce-lower-carbon-gasoline-to-filling-stations.html>

<sup>6031</sup> Scottish cities introduce low emission zones, AutoTrader U.K (London) 7 March 2020. Access Date: 23 March 2020. <https://www.autotrader.co.uk/content/news/scottish-cities-introduce-low-emission-zones>

<sup>6032</sup> Preserving our water resources in a changing climate — industry and government tackle threat to future water supplies, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/preserving-our-water-resources-in-a-changing-climate-industry-and-government-tackle-threat-to-future-water-supplies>

<sup>6033</sup> £1 million to support transition to future farming system, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 16 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-million-to-support-transition-to-future-farming-system>

<sup>6034</sup> Local authorities get £2.2 million boost to tackle air pollution, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (London) 18 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-authorities-get-22-million-boost-to-tackle-air-pollution>

<sup>6035</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

to withstand climate and disaster risks.<sup>6036</sup> As part of UK-India combined efforts, the nations have launched a joint venture between UK's EO Charging and India's Yahvi Enterprises, which are set to deliver charging infrastructure for electric vehicles across India. Through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Act, the UK has also begun the construction of "flood defences and river structures to encourage aquifer replenishment."<sup>6037</sup> India and the UK have also jointly committed GBP240 million towards capital in the Green Growth Equity Fund, which is expected to finance Ayana Renewable Power's development of 800MW in solar power capacity.<sup>6038</sup>

On 10 June 2020, the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative's member states (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) announced USD4.8 million for "the delivery of early warning systems and services" to the Pacific region. The objective of these systems and services was to protect residents from severe weather.<sup>6039</sup> These systems and services are intended to allow for proactivity by making forecasting possible.<sup>6040</sup>

On 12 June 2020, the Scottish government unveiled a GBP62 million funding package to support the energy sector's commitment to transitioning to net-zero emissions by 2045.<sup>6041</sup> Major projects to be considered for the government grant include a Global Underwater Hub in Aberdeen to support the subsea and underwater sector, and Net Zero Solution Centre projects including an Energy Transition Zone attached to the Aberdeen South Harbor.<sup>6042</sup> The package is also set to fund a Hydrogen Hub and the Acorn CSS project, both expected to produce green hydrogen to supply Scotland's energy market.<sup>6043</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the United Kingdom's offshore oil and gas industry pledged to reduce its operational carbon emissions by half to become a net-zero emissions by 2050.<sup>6044</sup> The government's aim is to collaborate with the private sector to accomplish the target, which would remove over 9

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<sup>6036</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>6037</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>6038</sup> UK confirmed as first co-chair of India-led climate change initiative, the Economic Times (Mumbai) 21 March 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/uk-confirmed-as-first-co-chair-of-india-led-climate-change-initiative/74744751>

<sup>6039</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>6040</sup> Financing increased for early warning systems in Small Island Developing States, CREWS Initiative (Geneva) 10 June 2020. Access Date: 27 July 2020. <https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/news/financing-increased-early-warning-systems-small-island-developing-states>

<sup>6041</sup> £62 million fund for energy sector, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 12 June 2020. Access date 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-62-million-fund-for-energy-sector/>

<sup>6042</sup> £62 million fund for energy sector, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 12 June 2020. Access date 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-62-million-fund-for-energy-sector/>

<sup>6043</sup> £62 million fund for energy sector, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 12 June 2020. Access date 24 July 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/gbp-62-million-fund-for-energy-sector/>

<sup>6044</sup> UK offshore oil and gas industry outlines plan to cut emissions as talks on transformational sector deal formally begin, UK Oil and Gas Industry Association (London) June 16 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://oilandgasuk.co.uk/uk-offshore-oil-and-gas-industry-outlines-plan-to-cut-emissions-as-talks-on-transformational-sector-deal-formally-begin/>

million tonnes of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, comparable to taking as many as two million cars off the road annually.<sup>6045</sup>

On 16 June 2020, the British government announced GBP12 million in funding designated towards research into the zero-emission market, the electric vehicle industry and vehicle-charging technology.<sup>6046</sup> The funding, provided via the Office for Low-Emission Vehicles, will funnel GBP10 million towards a new Zero Emission Vehicle Competition.<sup>6047</sup> Applicants will be able to bid for project funding directed to research for their charging infrastructure, as well as electric and hydrogen-driven batteries.<sup>6048</sup>

On 4 August 2020, the United Kingdom announced a new GBP2 billion for the Green Homes Grant, a home energy efficiency fund, designed to provide more than 600,000 British homes with up to GBP10,000 of funding for upgrades in energy efficiency and thermal solar installation.<sup>6049</sup> The funding will assist improvements such as thermal measures, heat pumps, low-carbon heating and insulation<sup>6050</sup>. Approximately GBP500 million out of the GBP2 billion of the Green Homes Grant scheme will be allocated towards low-income households.<sup>6051</sup>

On 6 August 2020, the UK government announced plans to quadruple offshore wind power by 2030, by increasing wind power generation from 10 GW to over 40 GW.<sup>6052</sup> According to Energy Minister Kwasi Kwarteng, this could help provide power to over 14 million homes and improve the cabling, transmission and costs of connecting new wind farms to the pre-existing British energy grid.<sup>6053</sup>

On 24 September 2020, the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action Facility announced EUR168 million in funding for the Euros Ambition Initiative, in which both the United Kingdom and

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<sup>6045</sup> UK offshore oil and gas industry outlines plan to cut emissions as talks on transformational sector deal formally begin, UK Oil and Gas Industry Association (London) June 16 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://oilandgasuk.co.uk/uk-offshore-oil-and-gas-industry-outlines-plan-to-cut-emissions-as-talks-on-transformational-sector-deal-formally-begin/>

<sup>6046</sup> UK government announces £12m funding for research into zero-emission market, Intelligent Transport (London) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/100821/uk-government-announces-12m-funding-for-research-into-zero-emission-market/>

<sup>6047</sup> UK government announces £12m funding for research into zero-emission market, Intelligent Transport (London) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/100821/uk-government-announces-12m-funding-for-research-into-zero-emission-market/>

<sup>6048</sup> UK government announces £12m funding for research into zero-emission market, Intelligent Transport (London) 16 June 2020. Access Date: 24 July 2020. <https://www.intelligenttransport.com/transport-news/100821/uk-government-announces-12m-funding-for-research-into-zero-emission-market/>

<sup>6049</sup> UK government announces £2 billion home energy efficiency fund, Smart Energy International (London) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/energy-efficiency/uk-government-announces-2-billion-home-energy-efficiency-fund/>

<sup>6050</sup> UK government announces £2 billion home energy efficiency fund, Smart Energy International (London) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/energy-efficiency/uk-government-announces-2-billion-home-energy-efficiency-fund/>

<sup>6051</sup> UK government announces £2 billion home energy efficiency fund, Smart Energy International (London) 4 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.smart-energy.com/industry-sectors/energy-efficiency/uk-government-announces-2-billion-home-energy-efficiency-fund/>

<sup>6052</sup> UK Government announces plans to quadruple offshore wind power by 2030, EV Wind (London) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.evwind.es/2020/08/06/uk-government-announces-plans-to-quadruple-offshore-wind-power-by-2030/76323>

<sup>6053</sup> UK Government announces plans to quadruple offshore wind power by 2030, EV Wind (London) 6 August 2020. Access Date: 24 September 2020. <https://www.evwind.es/2020/08/06/uk-government-announces-plans-to-quadruple-offshore-wind-power-by-2030/76323>

Germany contributed.<sup>6054</sup> The goal of this initiative is to contribute to global green recovery efforts and work towards carbon neutrality.<sup>6055</sup> This can be achieved through methods such as investment in electric vehicles, carbon-low farming practices and an increase of energy efficiency in the housing sector.<sup>6056</sup>

On 9 October 2020, Scotland announced it will be providing GBP 3.5 million to help with green recovery projects.<sup>6057</sup> Part of this project is to increase energy efficiency and increase the amount of electric vehicles.<sup>6058</sup>

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its emphasis on carbon capture and storage technology, clean transportation projects and the Rural Community Energy Fund. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through its contribution to the Green Climate Fund, resilient farming, and the National Framework for Water Resources.

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

*Analyst: Lucy Faria*

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

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 13 September 2019, the Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy announced it will provide approximately USD100 million for research and development for carbon capture, utilization and storage in order to lower CO2 emissions.<sup>6059</sup>

On 4 October 2019, the US and India launched the Flexible Resource Initiative in New Delhi, under the US-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force. The goal is so “develop strategies to ensure that

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<sup>6054</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new “Ambition Initiative,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>6055</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new “Ambition Initiative,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>6056</sup> NAMA Facility responds to a global green recovery with its largest-ever funding for a new “Ambition Initiative,” Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 24 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/nama-facility-responds-to-a-global-green-recovery-with-its-largest-ever-funding-for-a-new-ambition/>

<sup>6057</sup> Scotland's Green Recovery, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-green-recovery-1/>

<sup>6058</sup> Scotland's Green Recovery, Scottish Government (Edinburgh) 9 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.gov.scot/news/scotlands-green-recovery-1/>

<sup>6059</sup> US Department of Energy Announces \$100M for Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Storage, Department of Energy (Washington) 13 September 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/us-department-energy-announces-110m-carbon-capture-utilization-and-storage>



India's power systems are flexible enough to integrate renewable energy within the next decade, while still meeting market demands for electricity, in order to achieve its renewable energy vision."<sup>6060</sup>

On 22 October 2019, the Department of Energy announced it will allocate USD28 million for wind energy research, developing, testing, demonstration and development.<sup>6061</sup>

On 2 November 2019, the governments of the United States and Korea agreed to bilateral cooperation between the New Southern Policy and the Indo-Pacific Strategy at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok, Thailand. The goals of the agreement are far-reaching, but some include strengthening natural resource management to limit plastic waste production, sustainable water management projects, and funding climate change response.<sup>6062</sup>

On 6 November 2019, the Department of Energy announced it will be providing USD128 million to enhance solar energy technologies, with 75 research projects to be funded.<sup>6063</sup>

On 18 November 2019, Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources Francis Fannon and Australian Ambassador Joe Hockey signed a memorandum of understanding on energy mineral resources. The goals are to: "1) promote responsible and sustainable mining practices in the energy mineral sector, 2) support resilient supply chains of energy minerals by facilitating trade and industry connectivity, 3) establish measures to meet expected demand for clean energy technologies."<sup>6064</sup>

On 18 December 2019, Assistant Secretary Fannon and Canadian Associate Deputy Minister of Natural Resources Shawn Tupper signed a memorandum of understanding on energy mineral resources. The goals are to: "1) promote responsible and sustainable mining practices in the energy mineral sector, 2) support resilient supply chains of energy minerals by facilitating trade and industry connectivity, 3) establish measures to meet expected demand for clean energy technologies."<sup>6065</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the Department of Energy announced it would allocate up to USD125.5 million for research into solar energy technologies. The research and development will permit a reduced cost of solar energy.<sup>6066</sup> Moreover, the Department of Energy and the Office of Energy

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<sup>6060</sup> United States and India Launch Flexible Resources Initiative-Growth through Clean Energy, US Department of State (Washington) 4 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-india-launch-flexible-resources-initiative-growth-through-clean-energy/>

<sup>6061</sup> DOE Awards \$28 Million for Wind energy Research, Development, and Demonstration Projects, US Department of Energy (Washington) 22 October 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-awards-28-million-wind-energy-research-development-and-demonstration-projects>

<sup>6062</sup> Joint Fact Sheet by the United States and the Republic of Korea on Cooperation between the New Southern Policy and the Indo-Pacific Strategy, US Department of State (Washington) 2 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/joint-statement-by-the-united-states-and-the-republic-of-korea-on-cooperation-between-the-new-southern-policy-and-the-indo-pacific-strategy/>

<sup>6063</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$128 Million in New Projects to Advance Solar Technologies, Department of Energy (Washington) 6 November 2019. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-128-million-new-projects-advance-solar-technologies>

<sup>6064</sup> United States and Australia Sign MoU on Critical Energy Minerals, US Department of State (Washington) 18 November 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-australia-sign-mou-on-critical-energy-minerals/>

<sup>6065</sup> United States and Canada Sign Memorandum of Understanding on Critical Energy Minerals, US Department of State (Washington) 18 December 2019. Access Date: 2 February 2020. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-and-canada-sign-memorandum-of-understanding-on-critical-energy-minerals/>

<sup>6066</sup> Department of Energy Announces \$125.5 Million in New Funding for Solar Technologies, Department of Energy (Washington) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-announces-1255-million-new-funding-solar-technologies>

Efficiency and Renewable Energy also announced that up to USD4.8 million will go towards geothermal research and USD300 million for sustainable transportation.

On 19 February 2020, the Department of Energy stated it would provide USD100 million for research into artificial photosynthesis to create solar fuels.<sup>6067</sup>

On 30 March 2020, the Department of Energy announced it will provide USD22 million for research into carbon capture, utilization and storage technology.<sup>6068</sup>

On 3 September 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it will provide USD4 million for in research funding to “build resilience an protect vulnerable groups from environmental impacts of natural disaster.”<sup>6069</sup> This funding will go to five different institutions, where researchers will “investigate topics such as understanding the effect of major coastal flooding events and identifying the most promising infrastructure solutions to reduce hurricane and flood-related industrial contaminant releases and exposures.”<sup>6070</sup>

On 16 September 2020, the EPA announced it will be providing nearly USD10 million for protecting water in Guam as part of a larger USD2.7 billion water infrastructure initiative.<sup>6071</sup> Additionally, the EPA contributed USD1.6 nationwide from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.<sup>6072</sup> Of this, approximately USD6 million will be dedicated to Guam in order to “help drinking water systems install treatment for contamination, improve distribution systems by removing lead service lines and strengthen system resiliency to natural disasters such as floods.”<sup>6073</sup>

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<sup>6067</sup> Department of Energy to Provide 100 Million for Solar Fuels Research, Department of Energy (Washington) 19 February 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-100-million-solar-fuels-research>

<sup>6068</sup> Department of Energy to Provide \$22 Million for Research on Capturing Carbon Dioxide from Air, Department of Energy (Washington) 30 March 2020. Access Date: 3 April 2020. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/department-energy-provide-22-million-research-capturing-carbon-dioxide-air>

<sup>6069</sup> EPA Announce \$4 Million in Research Funding to Build Resilience and Protect Vulnerable Groups from Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters, United States Environmental Agency (Washington, D.C.) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-4-million-research-funding-build-resilience-and-protect-vulnerable-groups>

<sup>6070</sup> EPA Announce \$4 Million in Research Funding to Build Resilience and Protect Vulnerable Groups from Environmental Impacts of Natural Disasters, United States Environmental Agency (Washington, D.C.) 3 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-announces-4-million-research-funding-build-resilience-and-protect-vulnerable-groups>

<sup>6071</sup> EPA Awards Nearly \$10 Million for Infrastructure to Protect Surface Waters and Drinking Water in Guam, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-10-million-infrastructure-protect-surface-waters-and-drinking-water>

<sup>6072</sup> EPA Awards Nearly \$10 Million for Infrastructure to Protect Surface Waters and Drinking Water in Guam, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-10-million-infrastructure-protect-surface-waters-and-drinking-water>

<sup>6073</sup> EPA Awards Nearly \$10 Million for Infrastructure to Protect Surface Waters and Drinking Water in Guam, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.) 16 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-awards-nearly-10-million-infrastructure-protect-surface-waters-and-drinking-water>

On 17 September 2020, the EPA announced it will provide USD1.6 million in Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grants to partners in Arizona.<sup>6074</sup> The objective is to use the funds to foster cleaner air and reduce emissions by replacing old, diesel-polluting vehicles.<sup>6075</sup>

On 29 September 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced it will be rewarding up to USD 73 million for clean diesel projects as part of its Diesel Emissions Reduction Act National Grants Program.<sup>6076</sup> It aims to reduce emissions from its “existing fleet of old, dirty engines.”<sup>6077</sup>

On 1 October 2020, the Environmental Protection Agency announced the USD 88 million for Water Infrastructure Finance Innovation Act loan for Soquel Creek Water District in California.<sup>6078</sup> The Act aims to replenish groundwater to increase the community’s drought resilience and ensure access to water.<sup>6079</sup>

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development. It has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions through its investment in carbon capture, utilization and storage technology as well as other funding for geothermal and solar energy. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through the New Southern Policy, the Indo-Pacific Strategy agreed to at the East Asia Summit, and the Environmental Protection Agency’s investments to build resilience in vulnerable communities.

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

*Analyst: Gabrielle Regimbal*

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

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strive to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions and resilient development.

On 5 June 2019, the European Union set a regulation on the carbon dioxide emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles, which took effect 14 August 2019. This new standard aims to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in accordance with previous legislation regarding climate change

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<sup>6074</sup> U.S. EPA awards \$1.6 million to reduce diesel emissions in Arizona, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-awards-16-million-reduce-diesel-emissions-arizona-0>

<sup>6075</sup> U.S. EPA awards \$1.6 million to reduce diesel emissions in Arizona, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, D.C.) 17 September 2020. Access Date: 9 October 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-awards-16-million-reduce-diesel-emissions-arizona-0>

<sup>6076</sup> EPA to Award up to \$73 million for Clean Diesel Projects, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-award-73-million-clean-diesel-projects>

<sup>6077</sup> EPA to Award up to \$73 million for Clean Diesel Projects, United States Environmental Protection Agency (Washington, DC) 29 September 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-award-73-million-clean-diesel-projects>

<sup>6078</sup> U.S. EPA Announces \$88 Million Water Infrastructure Loan for Innovative Water Reuse Project in Soquel, CA, United States Environmental Protection (Washington, DC) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-announces-88-million-water-infrastructure-loan-innovative-water-reuse-project>

<sup>6079</sup> U.S. EPA Announces \$88 Million Water Infrastructure Loan for Innovative Water Reuse Project in Soquel, CA, United States Environmental Protection (Washington, DC) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 15 November 2020. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/us-epa-announces-88-million-water-infrastructure-loan-innovative-water-reuse-project>

objectives.<sup>6080</sup> The regulation includes incentives for low-emissions and zero-emissions vehicles, as well as financial penalties for excess emissions.<sup>6081</sup>

On 5 June 2019, the European Union set a regulation on the internal market for electricity, which took effect 1 January 2020. The regulation sets a number of principles on which electricity markets should be operated. Although the regulation has many goals, it is relevant to the European Union's commitment as it aims to support the decarbonization of the European Union's energy sector, thus fostering innovation towards lowering emissions.<sup>6082</sup>

On 27 November 2019, the European Union set a regulation on sustainability-related discourses in the financial services sector. Among other objectives, this new regulation aims to increase transparency on adverse impacts on sustainability in decisions made in the financial market. This regulation was set in accordance with various legislation including the United Nations global sustainable development framework and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>6083</sup>

On 22 January 2020, the European Union loaned EUR27 million to Artech Group to fund its research and innovation strategy to modernize its digital infrastructure. This strategy, among other things, aims to integrate renewable energy into the digital network used by the Artech Group.<sup>6084</sup>

On 28 January 2020, the European Investment Bank signed two agreements, each allocating EUR23.2 million in loans to fund modernization programs in Polish cities. These programs aim to reduce energy loss and improve air quality.<sup>6085</sup>

On 4 February 2020, the European Commission and the European Investment Fund partnered to launch the EUR75 million BlueInvest Fund to fund economic activities related to oceans, seas and coasts as "oceans are the first in line to be hit by climate change."<sup>6086</sup> These activities are thought to have an important role in the European Union's goal to have a carbon-neutral economy by 2050. The European Commission also funds an additional EUR40 million through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund to help with the development of "new innovative and sustainable products, technologies and services."<sup>6087</sup>

On 5 February 2020, the European Investment Bank allocated EUR60 million to the Spanish energy company CEPSA to fund the implementation of more sustainable and efficient technologies such as

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<sup>6080</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 of the European Parliament of the Council, European Union Law (Brussels) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:32019R1242>

<sup>6081</sup> CO2 emission performance standards for new heavy-duty vehicles, European Union Law (Brussels) 6 February 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1581292498724&uri=LEGISSUM:4415454>

<sup>6082</sup> Risk-preparedness in the electricity sector, European Union Law (Brussels) 25 July 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1581292498724&uri=LEGISSUM:4404054>.

<sup>6083</sup> Regulation (EU) 2016/2088 of the European Parliament of the Council, European Union Law (Brussels) 9 December 2019. Access Date: 9 February 2020. <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1581376951124&uri=CELEX:32019R2088>

<sup>6084</sup> Investment Plan supports innovative electric power company in Spain, European Commission (Brussels) 22 January 2020. Access Date: March 18, 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-supports-innovative-electric-power-company-spain-2020-jan-22\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-supports-innovative-electric-power-company-spain-2020-jan-22_en)

<sup>6085</sup> Investment Plan supports energy-saving upgrade of heating distribution networks in two Polish cities, European Commission (Brussels) 28 January 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-supports-energy-saving-upgrade-heating-distribution-networks-two-polish-cities-2020-jan-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-supports-energy-saving-upgrade-heating-distribution-networks-two-polish-cities-2020-jan-28_en)

<sup>6086</sup> European Commission and European Investment Fund launch €75 million BlueInvest Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_167](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_167)

<sup>6087</sup> European Commission and European Investment Fund launch €75 million BlueInvest Fund, European Commission (Brussels) 4 February 2020. Access Date: 9 February 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_167](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_167)

the “Detal” system. The technology has been proven to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, use of water and use of electricity.<sup>6088</sup>

On 13 February 2020, the European Commission, along with Austria, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, and the Belgian Wallonia region adopted the Rhine 2040 programme. This collaboration of countries situated along the Rhine river aims at “managing the Rhine and its river basin in a sustainable way and make it climate resilient.”<sup>6089</sup> Methods of increasing the resilience include focusing on “interconnected habitats and increased biodiversity, good water quality, reduction of flood risk and coping with low water.”<sup>6090</sup>

On 17 February 2020, the European Commission announced their EUR101.2 million investment into the projects of the LIFE program for Environment and Climate Action. The money will be allocated to ten large-scale projects aiming to help Europe’s transition to a sustainable economy and climate neutrality.<sup>6091</sup> The goal of this program is to focus on nature conservation, air quality and greening the economy to foster resilience to climate change.<sup>6092</sup>

On 27 February 2020, the European Investment Bank signed an agreement with the Latvian National Promotional Institution Altum to loan EUR18 million to fund energy efficient projects conducted by Latvian companies. The funding will be focused specifically on the industry sector.<sup>6093</sup>

On 13 March 2020, the European Commission allocated EUR980 million to support key European energy infrastructure projects that qualify for the funding. Included in the goals for the projects that would receive funding are contributing to sustainable development and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.<sup>6094</sup>

On 20 March 2020, the European Commission approved a EUR77 million investment into upgrading the waste management system in Bulgaria. The goal of this investment is to help provide

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<sup>6088</sup> Investment Plan helps Spanish energy company CEPSA to become greener, European Commission (Brussels) 5 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-helps-spanish-energy-company-cepsa-become-greener-2020-feb-05\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/investment-plan-helps-spanish-energy-company-cepsa-become-greener-2020-feb-05_en)

<sup>6089</sup> Rhine countries adopt programme for sustainable management and climate resilience, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/rhine-countries-adopt-programme-for-sustainable-management-and-climate-resilience/>

<sup>6090</sup> Rhine countries adopt programme for sustainable management and climate resilience, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (Berlin) 13 February 2020. Access Date: 22 March 2020. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/rhine-countries-adopt-programme-for-sustainable-management-and-climate-resilience/>

<sup>6091</sup> EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en)

<sup>6092</sup> EU invests more than €100 million in new LIFE Programme projects to promote a green and climate-neutral Europe, European Commission (Brussels) 17 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-invests-more-100-million-new-life-programme-projects-promote-green-and-climate-neutral_en)

<sup>6093</sup> Altum and EIB join forces for energy efficiency investments in Latvia, European Commission (Brussels) 27 February 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_329](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_329)

<sup>6094</sup> Energy Union: €980 million in EU funding available for clean energy infrastructure, European Commission (Brussels) 13 March 2020. Access Date: 18 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/energy-union-eu980-million-eu-funding-available-clean-energy-infrastructure-2020-mar-13\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/energy-union-eu980-million-eu-funding-available-clean-energy-infrastructure-2020-mar-13_en)

more affordable clean energy, derived from unrecyclable municipal waste that will have fewer negative impacts on the environment.<sup>6095</sup>

On 19 May 2020, the European Commission approved a EUR550 million to support the production of electricity in existing and depreciated biomass installations in Denmark.<sup>6096</sup> This decision is aimed at preventing a switch to fossil fuels, ultimately helping Denmark reach its target of 55 per cent of electricity production from renewable energy by 2030.<sup>6097</sup>

On 27 May 2020, the European Investment Bank signed a loan agreement for EUR18 million with a company building and running photovoltaic plants in Poland.<sup>6098</sup> It is predicted that these plants will reduce 47,000 tons of carbon dioxide each year.<sup>6099</sup>

On 28 May 2020, the European Commission approved support granted by Spain to electricity generators for supplying electricity in the Spanish non-peninsular territories as a Service of General Economic Interest.<sup>6100</sup> This will allow for better electricity security in these regions of Spain, as well as allow for better integration of renewable energy sources in the future.<sup>6101</sup>

On 31 August 2020, the European Investment Bank, along with UniCredit Bank Austria, provided a total of EUR107.4 million to finance the development of a wind farm in Austria.<sup>6102</sup> The wind farm will have the capacity to provide roughly 90,000 households with electricity.<sup>6103</sup> This project contributes to the shift to renewable energy, thus reducing overall emissions.<sup>6104</sup>

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<sup>6095</sup> Cohesion Policy: Commission invests in better waste management in Bulgaria, European Commission (Brussels) 20 March 2020. Access Date: 20 March 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/cohesion-policy-commission-invests-better-waste-management-bulgaria-2020-mar-20\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/cohesion-policy-commission-invests-better-waste-management-bulgaria-2020-mar-20_en)

<sup>6096</sup> State aid: Commission Approves €550 Million Danish Scheme to Support Electricity Production from Biomass Installations, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 20 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-eu550-million-danish-scheme-support-electricity-production-biomass-installations-2020-may-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-eu550-million-danish-scheme-support-electricity-production-biomass-installations-2020-may-19_en)

<sup>6097</sup> State aid: Commission Approves €550 Million Danish Scheme to Support Electricity Production from Biomass Installations, European Commission (Brussels) 19 May 2020. Access Date: 20 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-eu550-million-danish-scheme-support-electricity-production-biomass-installations-2020-may-19\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-eu550-million-danish-scheme-support-electricity-production-biomass-installations-2020-may-19_en)

<sup>6098</sup> Investment Plan: First EIB Support for Solar Energy Project in Poland, European Commission (Brussels) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_951](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_951)

<sup>6099</sup> Investment Plan: First EIB Support for Solar Energy Project in Poland, European Commission (Brussels) 27 May 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\\_20\\_951](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_20_951)

<sup>6100</sup> State aid: Commission Approves Support for Electricity Production in Spanish Non-Peninsular Territories, European Commission (Brussels), 28 May 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-support-electricity-production-spanish-non-peninsular-territories-2020-may-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-support-electricity-production-spanish-non-peninsular-territories-2020-may-28_en)

<sup>6101</sup> State aid: Commission Approves Support for Electricity Production in Spanish Non-Peninsular Territories, European Commission (Brussels), 28 May 2020. Access Date: 24 August 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-support-electricity-production-spanish-non-peninsular-territories-2020-may-28\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/state-aid-commission-approves-support-electricity-production-spanish-non-peninsular-territories-2020-may-28_en)

<sup>6102</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: September 7 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

<sup>6103</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: September 7 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

<sup>6104</sup> EIB and UniCredit Bank Austria finance development of one of Austria's largest wind farms, European Commission (Brussels) 31 August 2020. Access Date: September 7 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/eib-and-unicredit-bank-austria-finance-development-one-austrias-largest-wind-farms-2020-aug-31-0_en)

On 1 October 2020, the European Commission outlined its Zero Pollution Action Plan. The plan has four key areas. Firstly, how to effectively implement and enforce rules and regulations.<sup>6105</sup> Secondly, explore existing health and environmental legislation.<sup>6106</sup> Thirdly, monitor pollution prevention and reduction policies, and determine how to strengthen them internationally.<sup>6107</sup> Lastly, how to implement societal change, especially via digital solutions, to usher in sustainable development.<sup>6108</sup>

On 2 October 2020, the European Union announced it will be investing EU 1 billion into its energy infrastructure.<sup>6109</sup> Approximately 84 per cent will go towards electricity and smart grids as part of the European Green Deal.<sup>6110</sup>

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for low emissions though the reduction of carbon emissions from heavy-duty vehicles, the energy sector and focus on biodiversity. Further, it has strived to foster innovation in a wide range of areas for resilient development through BlueInvest, its assistance to Polish cities and the Rhine 2040 programme and the LIFE program for Environment and Climate Action.

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

*Analyst: Jenna Im*

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<sup>6105</sup> Commission outlines road to Zero Pollution Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01_en)

<sup>6106</sup> Commission outlines road to Zero Pollution Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01_en)

<sup>6107</sup> Commission outlines road to Zero Pollution Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01_en)

<sup>6108</sup> Commission outlines road to Zero Pollution Action Plan, European Commission (Brussels) 1 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/news/commission-outlines-road-zero-pollution-action-plan-2020-10-01_en)

<sup>6109</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly EUR 1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/contact\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/contact_en)

<sup>6110</sup> Investing in new energy infrastructure: Green light for EU grants worth nearly EUR 1 billion, European Commission (Brussels) 2 October 2020. Access Date: 16 November 2020. [https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/contact\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/about-european-commission/contact_en)